

**CIHM  
Microfiche  
Series  
(Monographs)**

**ICMH  
Collection de  
microfiches  
(monographies)**



**Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques**

**© 1997**

## Technical and Bibliographic Notes / Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming are checked below.

- ☒ Coloured covers / Couverture de couleur
- ☐ Covers damaged / Couverture endommagée
- ☐ Covers restored and/or laminated / Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- ☐ Cover title missing / Le titre de couverture manque
- ☐ Coloured maps / Cartes géographiques en couleur
- ☐ Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black) / Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- ☐ Coloured plates and/or illustrations / Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- ☐ Bound with other material / Relié avec d'autres documents
- ☐ Only edition available / Seule édition disponible
- ☐ Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along interior margin / La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la marge intérieure.
- ☐ Blank leaves added during restorations may appear within the text. Whenever possible, these have been omitted from filming / Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées.
- ☐ Additional comments / Commentaires supplémentaires:

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- ☐ Coloured pages / Pages de couleur
- ☐ Pages damaged / Pages endommagées
- ☐ Pages restored and/or laminated / Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- ☒ Pages discoloured, stained or foxed / Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- ☐ Pages detached / Pages détachées
- ☒ Showthrough / Transparence
- ☐ Quality of print varies / Qualité inégale de l'impression
- ☐ Includes supplementary material / Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- ☐ Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to ensure the best possible image / Les pages totalement ou partiellement obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure, etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à obtenir la meilleure image possible.
- ☐ Opposing pages with varying colouration or discolourations are filmed twice to ensure the best possible image / Les pages s'opposant ayant des colorations variables ou des décolorations sont filmées deux fois afin d'obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below /  
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10x		14x		18x		22x		26x		30x	
		12x		16x		20x		24x		28x	32x

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

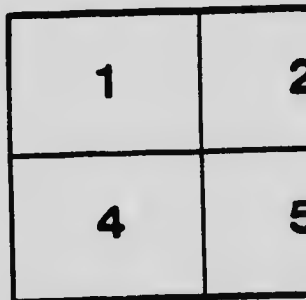
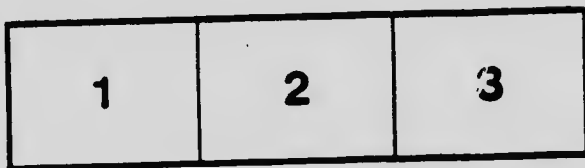
National Library of Canada

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche sheet contain the symbol  $\rightarrow$  (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol  $\nabla$  (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

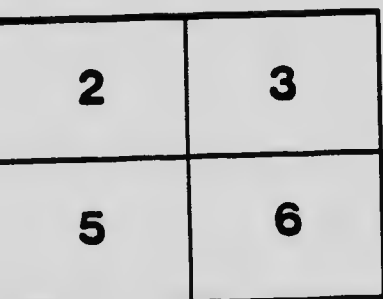
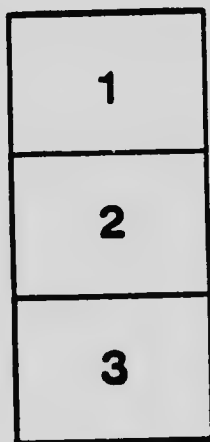
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

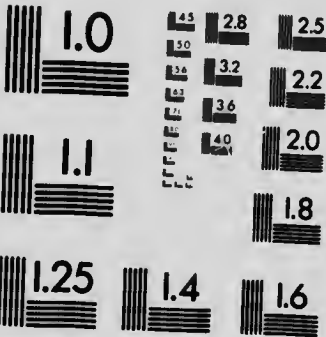
Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole  $\rightarrow$  signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole  $\nabla$  signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.



# MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART

(ANSI and ISO TEST CHART No. 2)



**APPLIED IMAGE Inc**

1653 East Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14609 USA  
(716) 482 - 0300 - Phone  
(716) 288 - 5989 - Fax

R28

**Commission of Conservation**  
**CANADA**

---

**COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, GAME AND  
FUR-BEARING ANIMALS**

---

**Co-operation  
in the Regulation of the  
Fur Trade**

BY

**J. A. BELLISLE**

*Inspector General of Fisheries and Game  
for the Province of Quebec*

Reprinted from  
"Wild Life: its Conservation and Protection"  
of the Commission of Conservation

---

OTTAWA—1929





HEAD OF MOOSE. TAKEN IN NEW BRUNSWICK



MULE DEER, ROCKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, BANFF, ALTA.

*Photo, Courtesy Mr. Dan McNeil*



## Co-operation in the Regulation of the Fur Trade

BY

J. A. BELLISLE

*Inspector General of Fisheries and Game for the Province of Quebec*

**T**HE province of Quebec possesses two great means of seconding the efforts of the Commission of Conservation—the creation of a number of fish and game reserves and the control of shipments of game and furs. Nearly 25 years ago, the Department of Crown Lands created certain hunting reserves, which were leased both to individuals and to fish and game clubs incorporated in our province. The object, and the aims for which these clubs were incorporated are, as provided for by law, to aid in the enforcement of the laws and regulations concerning the protection of fish and game in this province. These clubs may acquire and possess both movables and immovables necessary for their enjoyment of the privileges and the performances of the duties entrusted to them. They lease, for sporting purposes alone, certain fish and game reserves, which have been set apart for that purpose, by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and the first condition of such leases is an efficient surveillance of the territory at the expense of the lessee. Any neglect of this essential condition of the lease, or any utilization of the reserve for other purposes, involves the cancellation of the lease, as well as prosecution of the lessee at the hands of the Department.

**Fishing and  
Hunting Le**

Outside of the clubs, a certain number of individual sportsmen are lessees of fishing and hunting territories; these are bound by the same obligations as clubs, in regard to the protection of their reserves and to the limitations within which they may utilize the privileges granted them by their lease. The number of reserves thus leased to clubs or individuals is 425, and they include an approximate area of 8,000 square miles for hunting purposes. In addition to the 469 rivers, or portions of rivers, which are under lease for fishing purposes, 1,444 lakes are also leased, but I must add that several clubs lease all the fishing rights within the limits of their hunting territory; and, a large portion of these being unsurveyed, it is impossible to state precisely

the number of lakes which we actually have under lease. However, it may be affirmed, without any fear of exaggeration, that the number of our leased lakes is at least 2,500. All these reserves are, in effect, special parks, where the protection is most efficient and in which game may freely multiply. Moreover, all these lessees are required to employ one or more guardians named by the Minister, and to pay them during the twelve months of the year. Many of them, in order to fully comply with their obligations, employ additional guardians during certain months of the year. For instance, during the two or three months of the winter, in which the great depth of the snow most favours poaching operations, the clubs usually furnish additional help to their guardians. The same remark applies to lessees of fishing reserves during the summer and autumn months, and especially in the spawning season. Some of the lessees of salmon rivers employ as many as eight or ten guardians during the months of September and October. If we add the number of special guardians of clubs to the fish and game wardens employed by the department, we have a total of 600 officers scattered throughout the province. When it is considered that the reserves are chiefly in the most accessible sporting localities of the province, and are consequently the most exposed to poaching operations, it will be seen that this system is a very great aid to the protection of the fish and game wealth of the province.

**Control of  
Shipment of  
Game**

The second of our great means of protection is the control of the shipments of game. Up to two years ago, we limited ourselves to the control of big game shipments. At the commencement of 1917, the Department of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries inaugurated the control of the fur trade. A law was passed obliging fur traders to take out a license and to report monthly all furs or skins bought by them. In order to render this control more efficient, the Government imposed a royalty on each skin, which must be paid before it is stamped. From that date, no skin could be put upon the market without being stamped and the royalty paid, and no skin could be shipped outside of the province without having been first stamped and the royalty paid thereon, and this under the penalty of a fine and confiscation. The same regulations prevail for furs or skins which are shipped from one portion of the province to another, when they are sent from localities where the province has officers to mark them. The shipment of either game or skins, of any kind whatever, is prohibited, unless the contents are plainly marked on the outside of the packet, box, valise, or other receptacle containing them; and this is also under the penalty

of confiscation and a fine. This measure permits us not only to control the shipments, but also to prevent the purchase and shipment of furs taken out of season.

**Less Furs  
Illegally Taken**

One of the principal results of this policy of control of all shipments is a very great diminution in the number of furs taken illegally; for it is now useless to buy them from the trappers, seeing that they could not be disposed of; none of our officers will stamp furs which have evidently been taken out of season. The fur dealers are most anxious to second our efforts in this direction, because the purchase of furs taken out of season is a detriment to the fur trade. Furthermore, these changes in the law permit dealers to conduct the trade openly and to sell their furs like all other traders without fearing the surveillance of the government officers. They have only to buy their license, have their furs stamped, pay the royalty, and their trade is as free as that of any other branch of commerce.

The passing of this law, in the winter of 1917, gave us control last year of the shipments of 617 dealers in furs. This year, with the perfecting of our system, we have been able to control the operations of 793 licensed dealers, who report to us each month and thus enable us to trace and to follow every skin in the trade. In the first year of the operation of this new system, the Government stamped and collected royalty on the skins of 192,241 muskrat, 38,576 beaver, 9,846 marten, 33,396 ermine, 5,964 mink, and 7,350 deer, besides a large number of other furs or skins, but forming a grand total of 317,060 skins, representing a value of \$1,500,000. When we consider that this system is new, and that the result just mentioned is that of its first year in operation, we believe that we are justified in considering it most satisfactory.

**All Furs and  
Skins Stamped**

The law imposing a royalty, and the obligation to have all furs and skins coming from the province of Quebec stamped, enables us further to ascertain very approximately the different species and quantities of the furs taken, particularly in certain portions of the province. Thus, the Lake St. John region has furnished considerable quantities, also the Saguenay, more generally known as the North Shore. When the system has been longer in operation we shall be in a position to say what species are most sought after; whether there are abuses in certain localities; whether it is necessary to regulate the taking of any species, because of its growing scarcity; to ascertain whether it is necessary to modify our hunting seasons, or to prohibit completely the hunting of some particular species of fur-bearing animals, in order to permit their

greater increase. I do not pretend, however, that we have succeeded in preventing all poaching; ill-disposed shippers are still able to send packages through the mails, or may succeed in evading the vigilance of our officers in certain localities near our boundaries and ship furs outside of the province in a surreptitious manner.

**Assistance of  
Neighbouring  
Provinces**

Once on the other side of our frontier, we are at the mercy of neighbouring provinces and states, and, as none of our neighbours has a similar law to ours, the control of these shipments is difficult. In this connection, however, I am able to testify to the good will towards us, of which the authorities of the neighbouring provinces, and especially those of Ontario and New Brunswick, have given proof. For some months past, whenever authorities of our sister provinces have ascertained that furs shipped from Quebec did not bear the stamp required by our laws, they have seized them and returned them to us. We also benefit in the same way at the hands of certain officers of the state of New York. I am glad to say also that the postal authorities have given us their assistance in a certain measure to enable us to control the sending of furs by parcel post. This improved system only operates, however, in the cities of Quebec and Montreal, but I anticipate with pleasure the possibility of such control being extended, not only to the large centres, but also to the country post offices. The postal authorities have shown themselves disposed to second our efforts, and I have no doubt that, before long, there will be complete control of the shipments of furs through the mails.

We have not yet discussed the question with the Department of Customs. This department, through its officers along the frontier between Quebec and the United States, is in a position to know everything which crosses the border. I have no doubt that, when we have obtained from the customs authorities the assurance that no furs shall be shipped from Quebec to the United States, without being properly stamped, the different dealers who, at present, fail to observe the law, will abandon their clandestine trade.

**Uniform Laws  
to Control Furs**

I have already said that a certain number still succeed in evading the law in shipping their furs to the other side of the interprovincial boundary. These furs are then reshipped to the large fur houses of Montreal or Quebec, as if they originated in New Brunswick, Ontario or Manitoba, and, with the exception of beaver and otter, the sale of which is controlled in Ontario by the Government, it is impossible for us to verify the point of shipment of these skins. The Government of Ontario, in order to avoid abuses, very properly compels merchants who receive beaver



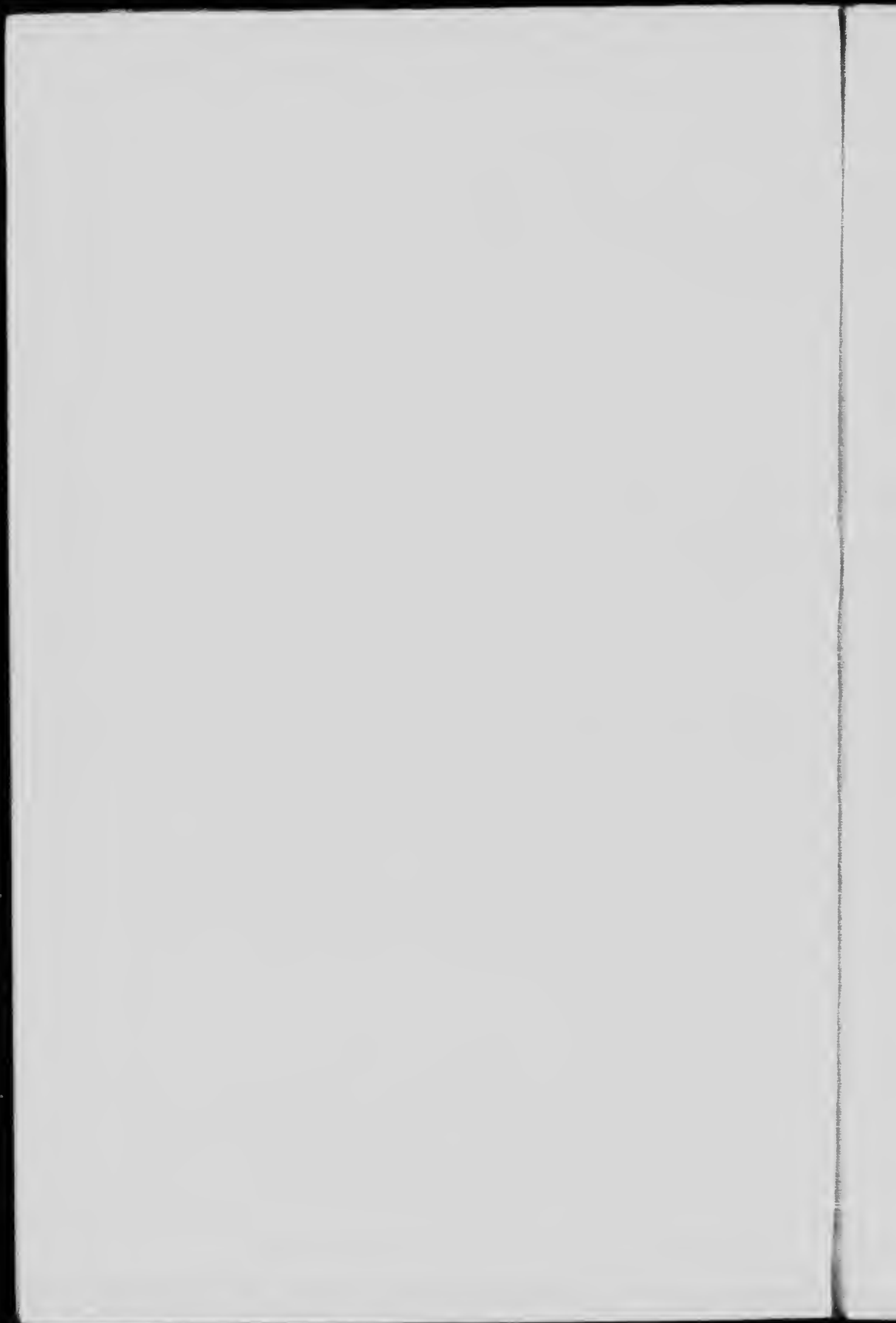
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP

*Photo, Courtesy Mr. Dan McCrean*



SHEEP AT THE SIDE OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY, NEAR BANFF, ALTA.

*Photo, Courtesy Mr. Dan McCrean*



or otter skins with the Government tag, to return these tags immediately to the proper department; thus, we are unable to establish in a satisfactory manner whether or not these beaver or otter skins really come from Ontario. This inconvenience will be overcome when the other provinces adopt a fur marking system identical with ours. Such action will also control the shipments of skins taken within the limits of their respective provinces. I do not despair of seeing this system of control universally adopted some day, and, when this is done, we shall have an almost perfect protection of the wild life, which is, after our forests, one of our greatest sources of revenue.

With this object in view, and for the securing of greater co-operation in the regulation of the fur trade, I beg to move the following resolution:

#### CO-OPERATION IN THE REGULATION OF THE FUR TRADE

That, in view of the increased impetus given to trapping operations by the high price of furs, and by more active competition in the trade, there is now much greater danger than hitherto of a very serious decrease in the supply of some of our most valuable furbearers, and even, in some cases, of their entire disappearance.

That experience proves that valuable statistics of much of the wild life of the country, so desirable for ensuring by timely action the perpetuation of declining species, may be best secured by a departmental control of the trade in raw furs.

That this desirable control, instead of being a burden upon the public, may be made a source of income by the imposition of a small royalty upon raw skins; and that nothing is more reasonable than that such small royalty should be contributed to the state from the vast fur industry, based mainly upon the wild life of the public domain.

That one of the chief difficulties encountered in controlling the trade in raw pelts, the royalties paid thereon, and the statistics thereof—as in the enforcement of all regulations for the protection of wild life—is to be found in the efforts to evade the law by the lawlessly inclined, who take advantage of the differing provisions of law in contiguous provinces and states, to ship the products of the chase through territory imposing less rigorous conditions than those of the province or state whence they originally come. Therefore, be it

*Resolved:* That, while fully recognizing the complete control belonging to each province of the Dominion over the entire wild life of its own territory, it is the sense of this Convention that, so far as possible, uniformity of laws and regulations regarding such wild life, and especially with reference to the control of the trade in raw furs, is extremely desirable, as well as the utmost measure of reciprocity in the enforcement thereof; and, further, that, even in the absence of

a complete uniformity of such laws and regulations, most desirable results have been proven possible by a neighbourly reciprocity in enforcing them, as illustrated in the reciprocal return to their place of origin of raw furs and game, which, when seized for illegal killing or shipment, are declared to have been shipped from another province.

**Definition of  
Unprime Skin**

MR. HARKIN: Has the province of Quebec, in connection with its fur trade, adopted a clear-cut definition of 'unprime' skin? In connection with our Northwest Game Act that question of unprime skins has arisen, and we have been told that it arose also in connection with the administration of the new law in Quebec. People interested in the fur trade have represented to me that, at times, there is the utmost difficulty in deciding whether a skin is unprime or not, unprime being such a wide term; the classification being usually based on the colour of the hide. That is represented as not a safe basis to go on, and it occurred to me that, at a meeting like this, we might get suggestions as to a clear-cut definition of unprime skin. From what fur dealers have told me, it would be of very great advantage to them, and I think also that it would be of great advantage to those who are administering the law.

MR. BELLISLE: It is very hard to give an exact definition of prime or unprime. Our law provides that fur-bearing animals shall not be killed before November 1st, and all furs taken before that date are considered unprime. Of course, some furs taken after the first of November, at first sight, look like unprime skins, but if the owner can prove that the skin comes from an animal killed after November 1st, even if it does not look like a prime one, we will consider it as a prime one. It is a question of dates; we cannot give an exact definition.

MR. E. MELLON: You could not expect the hunter to know whether or not a skin is prime before he skins the animal; he cannot tell simply from the outside appearance. Naturally, 'unprime' must apply to skins taken from animals killed in the close season. If a fur-bearing animal is caught after the opening of the season, then it is caught legally, though it may not be prime, especially in an open season like this year. You cannot define what is unprime skin and what is prime skin.

**Troubles of  
Fur Dealers**

MR. HARKIN: From what some fur dealers have said to me, I was inclined to think that they would prefer that a concrete definition be given of what constitutes an unprime skin, so that a dealer need not buy a skin that had an appearance of unprimeness. The difficulty is that he buys the skin



believing that it was killed in the proper season; after it is shipped he is liable to have difficulty with the various officers because, in their opinion, judging from the appearance of the skin, it is not prime. It seems to me that we might get better results if we had an exact definition. If the colour of the skin indicates unprimeness, why not say so, that there may be no room for doubt.

MR. MELLON: That is the point; you cannot do so. In Quebec, the fur traffic is legal after November 1st. There has been very little trouble with the fur dealers in that province. Any fur taken after the opening of the season we are at liberty to buy and to have in possession, so long as we are certain that it has been taken in the open season. Suppose we take muskrat skins after November 1st, which are not prime, though they might be fit for dressing and manufacturing purposes; are we to destroy all these skins? We must leave 'unprime' to mean skins taken in the close season.

DR. HEWITT: I think that what Mr. Harkin is aiming at is this: Could not we, as a conference, agree on the distinction, so that everybody could follow the same idea? If 'prime' is to mean skins taken in the open season, then let us have that definition, and everybody will take it as a definition, fur companies as well as game officers.

MR. MELLON: My point is that you cannot make a definition applying to the skin itself. You cannot define a prime skin.

MR. BELLISLE: We have to depend on the dates; that is the only way.

MR. JAMES WHITE: Why not define an 'unprime' skin as one taken during the close season?

MR. KNIGHT: In our Nova Scotia law we do not use the word 'unprime,' because it is so hard to define. We make it illegal for anyone to have in his possession skins of animals that are taken out of season.

DR. MURRAY: If there is some agreement with regard to that, we will pass on to the consideration of the resolution proposed by Mr. Bellisle.

MR. RAPSEY: I beg to second the resolution. The suggestions which it contains are in keeping with present-day conditions.

DR. HEWITT: The sense of the resolution, as I understand it, is this: It emphasizes the desirability of uniformity in laws and the desirability of uniformity in regard to the control of the trade in furs—that is, the regulating of the fur trade—and that the regulations of the different provinces should be as nearly the same as possible. The address which Mr. Bellisle gave this afternoon is an exposition of a most successful experiment in the regulation of the fur trade,

which could well form the basis of action to secure uniformity of laws in the different provinces. It is that reciprocity or co-operation among the different provinces that this resolution wishes to bring about.

MR. HOSE: How many provinces have provision for fur traders' licenses or the payment of royalties?

DR. HEWITT: I could not tell you.

MR. HOSE: The Game Conservation Board of British Columbia has recommended a fur-trader's license.

DR. HEWITT: The Northwest Game Act requires a license, too.

MR. ARSENAULT: It may be difficult at times to distinguish between the furs of wild and of domesticated animals. How is that managed in Quebec in connection with the skins of domesticated foxes, or foxes kept in captivity?

MR. BELLISLE: We do not impose a royalty, unless it is proved that the fox is bought and put in a ranch for ultimate sale. As a matter of fact, it is only on foxes raised in the ranch that we do not impose royalties.

MR. ARSENAULT: You must have some difficulty at times.

MR. BELLISLE: It does not work out too badly. As a general rule we stamp the furs, but we do not exact any royalty.

DR. BAKER: What is your royalty and how do you collect it?

MR. BELLISLE: On black fox we exact \$15 on each skin; on silver fox, \$10; on cross fox, \$1.50; on beaver, 35 cents; on otter, 75 cents; on red fox, 60 cents; on muskrat, 2 cents; on ermine, 2 cents. It varies, according to the value.

DR. BAKER: You do not pay a bounty on muskrats in this part of the country?

MR. BELLISLE: Oh, no; quite the contrary.

DR. BAKER: We pay a bounty on them.

MR. BELLISLE: We have collected quite an amount of money on skins during the last year.

The resolution was agreed to.





\_\_\_\_\_

