TWELFTH REPORT

OF

THE PROVINCIAL GAME WARDEN

OF THE

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

1916

THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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1917.

To His Honour FRANK STILLMAN BARNARD,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to submit herewith the Twelfth Annual Report of the Provincial Game Warden.

M. A. MACDONALD,

Attorney-General.

Attorney-General's Department,

Victoria, B.C., March 1st, 1917.

PROVINCIAL GAME WARDEN'S OFFICE,

VANCOUVER, B.C., February 20th, 1917.

Honourable M. A. Macdonald, K.C., M.P.P.,

Attorney-General, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1916.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. BRYAN WILLIAMS,

Provincial Game Warden.

REPORT FOR 1916.

In making the Twelfth Annual Report, it is to be regretted that the satisfactory condition of all species of game which has been recorded in all reports for the last few years cannot again be put on record this year. The game birds have suffered the most, but mule-deer have had a hard time in some districts. However, all other species of big game and most fur-bearing animals are either increasing or, at any rate, holding their own. The condition of each species of game will, as usual, be dealt with separately farther on in the report.

Apart, however, from the scarcity of certain species of game, the Game Department is still in a prosperous condition. In last year's report it was stated that, in spite of all drawbacks, it was expected that the Department would be able to show a small profit. This expectation was not only realized, but by a good deal larger margin that even hoped for. It was also stated that a further drop in the revenue from gun licences must be looked for. Unfortunately, this has also come about, but not to the extent actually allowed for; in fact, the revenue has exceeded that given in the estimates by $1,050, and the Department will again this year probably have a profit of several thousand dollars. If, however, the Department only paid expenses this year, it would still have a good big sum to its credit from the money collected during the past four years, as the following statement of receipts and expenditures for the past three years and an approximate one for this year will show:—

RECEIPTS.

Game licences (both resident and non-resident)—		
1913-14	$107,154 50	
1914-15	90,948 25	
1915-16	71,582 00	
1916-17 (to date)	65,567 50	
Estimated for February and March, 1917	500 00	
		$335,752 25
Fines—		
1913-14	$ 4,287 50	
1914-15	4,625 50	
1915-16	3,317 50	
1916-17	1,885 00	
		14,115 50
Special licences to trap foxes—		
1914-15	$ 1,400 00	
1915-16	500 00	
1916-17	300 00	
		2,200 00
Permits and miscellaneous—		
1913-14	$ 170 80	
1914-15	204 20	
1915-16	224 25	
1916-17 (to date)	319 47	
Estimated for February and March, 1917	10 00	
		928 72
		$352,996 47

Receipts brought forward			$352,996 47

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries—			
1913-14	$29,017 50		
1914-15	40,376 75		
1915-16	40,382 51		
1916-17 (to date)	32,315 61		
Estimated for February and March, 1917	6,133 32		
		$148,225 69	
Game protection—			
1913-14	$32,872 61		
1914-15	25,022 72		
1915-16	22,185 32		
1916-17 (to date)	19,111 55		
Estimated for February and March, 1917	5,900 00		
		105,092 20	
			$253,317 89
Total profit for four years			$99,678 58

The above figures are accurate, with the exception of this year's, which, of course, will not be complete until the end of the fiscal year, and the amounts given for fines are within a few dollars of being correct.

From this statement it will be seen that during the past four years the Department, far from being an expense, has had a profit of nearly $100,000, and, but for a little too rigid economy this year and consequent inability to make a proper collection of licences, would have done better. In one or two districts where deputies have enlisted their places have not been filled. In others the district is far too big for them to cover, and an additional deputy is most badly needed in the vicinity of Fort St. James. There is a big trapping country there which has never received proper attention, and a good active deputy should collect enough licences to pay a good part of his salary, as well as being the means of saving a number of valuable fur-bearing animals that are now killed out of season.

Attention must also be drawn to the fact that during the first year of resident gun licence the sum of $101,000 was collected from this source alone, and this in spite of the fact that the whole system of collection had been organized in about a month's time, and it is an absolute certainty that if there had been the same system of collection the first year that there is now, at least another $20,000 would have been collected, and that in future years, when the country once regains its prosperity, its revenue from this source alone will reach $150,000 yearly. In addition, when the fur-farms begin to pay, if a tax is levied, as is done in the East, a considerable attention might be derived from this source.

Owing to so many of the regular staff of deputies enlisting and suitable men not being forthcoming to take their places, some districts have been badly neglected this year and the stock of game has suffered as well as the revenue.

Without exception, every unmarried Deputy Game Warden has either enlisted or offered himself for service at the front; in addition a great many of the married deputies have enlisted. It is with deep regret that it has to be reported that three of them have already given their lives in their country's defence; their names are: H. C. Stillingfleet, deputy in the North Okanagan District; G. Burrington, deputy in the Skeena District; and M. E. Lawrence, deputy in the Islands District.

As far as possible, all vacancies in this Department have been filled with returned soldiers, but up to the present there has been great difficulty in finding any who have the requisite knowledge and at the same time are physically fit to do the work. To perform the duties of a Deputy Game Warden satisfactorily, a man must do a lot of hard work and in winter suffer a good deal of exposure, and it would be no kindness to offer such work to most of the men who have been discharged as unfit for further military duty; in fact, in some cases, putting them at that work might mean loss of all chance of future recovery.

Now with regard to the number of deputies employed: There are not nearly enough for the enormous territory to be patrolled. Compare the number of deputies in this Province with that of any other country where there is any real system of game-protection, and we are short at least half. Of course, under present conditions any improvement in this respect is not to be expected, but there are some parts of the Province that have no deputies at all, and when times improve will have to have them if there is to be any game left.

Mention has already been made of the necessity of a Game Warden in the vicinity of Fort St. James, and it will not be long before at least one must be employed in the Peace River country. In that district we are at present relying entirely on what assistance the Provincial police can give, and while the chief constable and the two men he has to assist him are doing their best and are really most active in looking after the game, still with an increase of population their police duties will take up all their time. Then the Atlin District is badly in need of patrolling for at least six months of the year; trappers and hunters come in up the Taku River from the United States regularly and take a heavy toll of game and fur-bearing animals, while, in addition, the Indians continue to slaughter game whenever they feel like it. Proper attention to these matters would necessitate lengthy journeys and a constant patrol. The police in that district cannot spare the time.

The Department gets a certain amount of assistance from a great many of the Provincial and municipal police, but it is mostly in connection with the issuing of licences, though it is only fair to say that one or two of the constables have done other work on several occasions when they have been able to spare the time.

Last winter it was not found necessary to issue many permits to kill deer for food out of season; in fact, there were very few applications for such permits; in all, only twenty-one were issued in comparison with 1,016 for the previous winter. It is a pretty good indication of greatly improved conditions through the Province.

There were less complaints this year with regard to the Orders in Council opening the seasons than any year hitherto. Of course, the seasons did not give general satisfaction, as such a thing would be impossible, but it is most pleasing to be able to report that this year many men actually took the trouble to write expressing their approval, whereas in other years any letters received were just the reverse.

The sale of game, except to a limited extent in one or two of the northern districts, was entirely done away with this year for the first time in the history of the Province, and this new regulation undoubtedly gave the greatest satisfaction to almost every man who uses firearms; even some of the men who used to hunt for the market approved of it. Probably it was not approved of by a number of men who live in town and either do not shoot or, if they do, are not good enough shots to get birds. Nevertheless, it was one of the best moves ever made and will have a most beneficial effect on the future stock of game.

While there has been an enormous improvement in game-protection during the past few years, there is still room for many more improvements. A certain number of additional deputies are needed, importations of various species of game birds almost a necessity, a couple of small launches for the Coast and a small motor-car for work around Vancouver and another for Vancouver Island would be of the greatest help. In view, however, of the present financial conditions and the necessity of keeping the Department at least on a self-supporting basis, it is not by any means the intention of this report to make any recommendation for any increased expenditure unless there is every reason to expect such an expenditure would be the means of bringing in at least an equal amount of revenue.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of non-resident big-game hunters; in all, fifty-four took out licences in comparison with forty-four last year. Practically all of these went away thoroughly satisfied with the trophies they succeeded in getting, and already there have been a number of articles in various magazines, giving accounts of their success, which will undoubtedly result in an increased number of hunters.

The number of non-resident anglers' licences fell off a good deal, only 117 being issued in comparison with 149 last year. The almost complete extermination of tyee salmon at Campbell River is in a great measure responsible for the falling-off in receipts from this source.

At present not only does this Province collect an angler's licence, but the Dominion fishery officers and Dominion forestry officers also collect one. An arrangement, however, has been

arrived at between all these officials to recognize one another's licences, so that no angler shall be compelled to take out more than one.

The show-room of the head office has received as presents a magnificent moose-head from Mr. Dodd, the Government Agent at Telegraph Creek, and also a very fine caribou from Denis Hyland, who is one of the best-known Indian guides of Telegraph Creek. What is probably a record pair of female goat-horns also has been presented by Mr. Johnson, of Jervis Inlet. The latter measures exactly 12½ inches in length. A good specimen of a Coast deer was obtained by the Deputy Game Warden of Alberni, and an exceptionally good wapiti-head by the Deputy Game Warden of Windermere, the animal having died during the past winter. With these additional heads the Department has about as fine a collection of native big-game trophies as it is possible to get, and they will be a splendid advertisement for possible big-game hunters.

During the past year the following furs have been declared confiscated: Lynx, 3; musk-rat, 85; marten, 2; beaver, 48; mink, 4; otter, 1; foxes, 3 silver, 3 cross, 3 red.

With regard to residents' licences there has been a considerable falling-off. This year 28,251 were issued in comparison with 34,332 last year. If it were not for the fact that a close season for pheasants everywhere and for all species of grouse in the Interior at present seems necessary (in view of the improved conditions throughout a great part of the country), there might even be an increase in the revenue next year.

REVENUE DERIVED.

The total amount of money paid to the Treasury this year is as follows:—

Resident licences—		
O.F.L., 16,916	$42,290 00	
G.F.L., 1,205	6,025 00	
S.F.L., 1,155	11,550 00	
Guides, 41	205 00	
F.F.L., 6,556	...	
P.F.L., 2,378	...	
	$60,070 00	
Less refunds	567 50	
		$59,502 50
Non-resident licences—		
General, 51	$ 5,100 00	
Bear, 10	250 00	
Anglers, 117	585 00	
Weekly bird, 7	35 00	
Season's bird, 2	100 00	
	$ 6,070 00	
Less refunds	5 00	
		6,065 00
Special licence to trap foxes, 3		300 00
Miscellaneous—		
Branding fees	$ 15 00	
Exportation permits	10 00	
Sale of confiscated guns	18 00	
Sale of confiscated heads and pelts	222 22	
Sale of old badges	54 25	
		319 47
		$66,186 97
Fines imposed under the "Game Act"	$ 2,050 00	
Less moiety and remittance of fines	165 00	
		1,885 00

Revenue derived from Sale of Resident Gun Licences.

District.	O.F.L.		G.F.L.		S.F.L.		Guides.		F.F.L.	P.F.L.	Totals.	District Totals.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amo't.	No.	No.		
Vancouver Electoral District	2,446	$6,115 00	116	$580 00	143	$1,430 00	28	$140 00	244	332	$8,265 00	
Westminster Electoral District	542	1,355 00	4	20 00	4	40 00	..	..	88	49	1,415 00	
Richmond and South Vancouver Electoral Districts	368	920 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	..	920 00	$10,600 00
Victoria Electoral District	1,579	3,947 50	17	85 00	9	90 00	..	..	148	23	$4,122 50	
Esquimalt, Cowichan, and Saanich Electoral Districts	493	1,232 50	5	25 00	4	40 00	..	..	256	2	1,297 50	5,420 00
Fort George Electoral District:												
South Fort George	70	175 00	51	255 00	96	960 00	..	..	211	69	$1,390 00	
Balance of district	94	235 00	89	445 00	224	2,240 00	..	..	295	14	2,920 00	4,310 00
Comox Electoral District	1,048	2,620 00	76	380 00	27	270 00	..	..	338	43	..	3,270 00
Newcastle, including Nanaimo:												
Nanaimo	799	1,997 50	1	5 00	3	30 00	..	..	57	..	$2,032 50	
Balance of district	202	505 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	..	505 00	2,537 50
North Okanagan Electoral Dis.:												
Vernon	345	862 50	23	115 00	13	130 00	..	..	141	26	$1,107 50	
Balance of district	405	1,012 50	29	145 00	18	180 00	..	..	565	7	1,337 50	2,445 00
Fernie Electoral District	547	1,367 50	151	755 00	23	230 00	..	..	64	69	..	2,352 50
Similkameen Electoral District	699	1,747 50	24	120 00	23	230 00	..	..	114	94	..	2,097 50
Columbia Electoral District	279	697 50	145	725 00	59	590 00	..	..	130	14	..	2,012 50
Kamloops Electoral District:												
Kamloops	448	1,120 00	17	85 00	35	350 00	..	..	683	81	$1,555 00	
Balance of district	144	360 00	1	5 00	8	80 00	..	..	131	..	445 00	2,000 00
Yale Electoral District	561	1,402 50	26	130 00	27	270 00	..	..	164	148	..	1,802 50
Prince Rupert Electoral District:												
Prince Rupert	203	507 50	2	10 00	8	80 00	..	..	19	94	$ 597 50	
Balance of district	195	487 50	25	125 00	42	420 00	..	..	60	102	1,032 50	1,630 00
Cariboo Electoral District	162	405 00	21	105 00	107	1,070 00	..	..	258	93	..	1,580 00
Trail Electoral District:												
Nelson	227	567 50	31	155 00	13	130 00	..	..	192	125	$ 852 50	
Balance of district	201	502 50	38	190 00	3	30 00	..	..	59	49	722 50	1,575 00
Chilliwack Electoral District	600	1,500 00	..	..	5	50 00	..	..	251	18	..	1,550 00
South Okanagan Electoral Dis.:												
Kelowna	380	950 00	16	80 00	8	80 00	..	..	92	1	$1,110 00	
Balance of district	141	352 50	5	25 00	4	40 00	..	..	38	..	417 50	1,527 50
Lillooet Electoral District	226	565 00	42	210 00	57	570 00	2	10 00	259	76	..	1,355 00
Cranbrook Electoral District	384	960 00	36	180 00	20	200 00	..	..	65	49	..	1,340 00
Dewdney Electoral District	467	1,167 50	8	40 00	8	80 00	..	..	171	..	..	1,287 50
Alberni Electoral District	374	935 00	23	115 00	14	140 00	..	..	148	17	..	1,190 00
Delta Electoral District	457	1,142 50	4	20 00	..	..	..	..	336	7	..	1,162 50
Greenwood Electoral District	342	855 00	18	90 00	11	110 00	..	..	112	76	..	1,055 00
Revelstoke Electoral District	158	395 00	51	255 00	30	300 00	..	..	39	96	..	950 00
Kaslo Electoral District	199	497 50	27	135 00	15	150 00	..	..	103	144	..	782 50
Grand Forks Electoral District	243	607 50	20	100 00	6	60 00	..	..	51	41	..	767 50
Slocan Electoral District	163	407 50	31	155 00	15	150 00	..	..	96	82	..	712 50
Omineca Electoral District	116	290 00	6	30 00	33	330 00	..	..	186	208	..	650 00
North Vancouver Electoral Dis.	189	472 50	7	35 00	12	120 00	..	..	121	14	..	627 50
Islands Electoral District	219	547 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	141	..	..	547 50
Rossland Electoral District	142	355 00	19	95 00	2	20 00	..	..	22	33	..	470 00
Atlin Electoral District	59	147 50	..	..	26	260 00	11	55 00	1	82	..	462 50
Totals	16,916	$42,290 00	1205	$6,025 00	1155	$11,550 00	41	$205 00	6556	2378	..	$60,070 00

ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW.

The number of prosecutions this year has been very small compared to the past three years. This is in a measure due to so many men having left the Province, but much more so to the fact that people actually realize that breaking the game laws means considerable risk of being prosecuted, and with these hard times they cannot afford to pay fines; in addition, public feeling is now much stronger against poachers. It is really extraordinary how few there were this year who failed to take out their firearms licence. In spite of the fact that thousands of hunters are stopped by the Game Wardens and police every year, only thirty-nine have had to be prosecuted on this account. Even in some of the most out-of-the-way parts of the North, where you would never imagine men would trouble about such a thing, it is almost a certainty that a man carrying firearms or traps has his licence. There are, however, certain parts of the Province that still need extra attention not only with regard to licences, but other matters too.

That this condition of affairs has been brought about is certainly not due to the backing some of the Magistrates have given the deputies. This year, as for almost every other year, this report has again to complain of the actions of some of the Magistrates not only with regard to enforcement of the "Game Act," but also with regard to laxity in filling in bounty applications. If it were only a question of minor offences it would be another thing, but unfortunately this is not the case. Pit-lamping still goes on and will go on; cattle by the score are shot every year by men who hunt at night, and will be until we get some Magistrate to give a penalty to suit the case. Again, this year a man was arrested for this offence and was let off with a $25 fine. The offence of pit-lamping is the one offence that we have not been able to reduce, and it is due entirely to the absurdly light sentences which are imposed. Of all the offences under the "Game Act," this one is the hardest one for which to obtain a conviction and the cause of most complaints. Every shooting season the deputies of Vancouver Island spend at least half of their time trying to stop this practice, and time after time have had to drop prosecutions simply for lack of a little evidence. People do not realize what evidence is required for a prosecution, and seem to think that because they are confident a man is guilty he should be immediately prosecuted and the Magistrate should convict him right off; they blame the deputies for not bringing up the case.

In addition to the use of pit-lamps, we now have another equally bad practice, and that is shooting deer at night from motor-cars. This offence is, if anything, harder to stop than pit-lamping, and will be until it is possible for the deputies to have the use of a car themselves. On foot it is out of the question making an attempt to stop a car, and it is equally impossible to get the number of the car, as they are always covered.

Dogs hunting deer and game birds during the breeding season are still a constant source of complaints, and a great deal of work has been done during the past year in trying to make some improvement in this respect. It is, however, almost as hard a matter as pit-lamping. It is generally impossible to catch the dog, and even if caught, after a vast amount of work, his owner is almost certain to repudiate ownership. However, constant warnings to owners of dogs and a few prosecutions have had some effect, but there is still great room for improvement.

Trapping out of season has received a considerable amount of attention this year. For several years past, efforts have been made to induce the Indians only to trap at the right time. Persuasion, however, proved of no avail, so a number of prosecutions, resulting in gaol sentences and confiscation of furs, have been tried and will probably have a most excellent effect.

There have been a good many gaol sentences this year, but most of them have been imposed on Indians; one or two white men have also been sent to gaol but only for very serious offences.

As a general thing the sale of game has been very limited; there has been a little, but it was almost entirely confined to a few individuals, and so carefully done that no prosecutions could be brought about.

Most years we have numerous complaints of Americans coming across the line and shooting without taking out licences, but this year they seem to have kept pretty strictly to their own side. The prosecutions we had last year have evidently been a good warning.

Taking the Province as a whole, we have succeeded in getting down infractions of the "Game Act" to a minimum; the slaughter of game by certain Indians, pit-lamping, and dogs hunting game in the breeding season are the exceptions.

PROSECUTIONS.

During the year there have been 159 informations laid, six of which were subsequently withdrawn. In the remaining 153 cases, there were seventeen dismissals, nine suspended sentences, seventeen gaol sentences, and fines amounting to $2,050 were imposed in the remaining 110 cases.

Fines imposed.

No. of Cases.	Description of Offence.	Total Fines.
8	Deer in possession out of season	$270 00
5	Killing deer out of season	247 50
1	Selling deer illegally	5 00
1	Keeping deer illegally	25 00
2	Allowing dogs to run deer	5 00
1	Allowing dogs to hunt game birds out of season	5 00
2	Killing pheasants out of season	50 00
1	Hen pheasants illegally in possession	10 00
2	Grouse in possession out of season	50 00
2	Shooting grouse out of season	50 00
2	Killing ducks out of season	20 00
1	Game birds in possession out of season	10 00
1	Killing game birds out of season	40 00
2	Shooting game birds from gasolene-boat	10 00
1	Trapping game birds	15 00
1	Killing game out of season	75 00
1	Buying game out of season	50 00
1	Killing bear without proper licence	10 00
1	Killing otter without proper licence	5 00
2	Killing doe of mule-deer	30 00
1	Exceeding bag limit for mountain-goat	100 00
2	Shooting swans	20 00
1	Shooting sea-gulls	10 00
2	Mountain-sheep head illegally in possession	30 00
37	Carrying firearms without a licence	222 50
2	Carrying firearms without proper licence	10 00
5	Trapping without a licence	160 00
1	Trapping beaver in prohibited area	25 00
2	Interfering with traps of licensed trapper	20 00
1	Hunting with head-lights	25 00
2	Automatic shotgun in possession	10 00
1	Pump-gun not plugged	10 00
3	Using another person's badge	175 00
2	Allowing licence or badge to be used	150 00
2	Trespassing in pursuit of game	10 00
1	Giving false information to a Deputy Game Warden	10 00
1	Failing to exhibit licence or badge	5 00
1	Refusing to show record of furs	5 00
1	Boy under age carrying firearms illegally	5 00
3	Taking trout under size	15 00
1	Non-resident fishing without a licence	50 00
110		$2,050 00

Penalties imposed.

No. of Cases.	Description of Offence.	Penalty.
1	Offering venison for sale	1 month in gaol.
2	Carrying firearms without licence	2 mos. and 14 days in gaol.
2	Venison in possession out of season	(Each) 50 days in gaol.
1	Interfering with trap-line	30 days in gaol.
1	Grouse in possession out of season	2 months in gaol.
1	Part of moose in possession out of season	30 days in gaol.
1	Killing cow moose	90 days in gaol.
1	Selling moose out of season	30 days in gaol.
1	Game in possession out of season	3 months in gaol.
6	Killing fur-bearing animals out of season	Each 2 days in gaol.
1	Selling game during close season	Suspended sentence.
1	Purchasing game during close season	"
2	Carrying firearms without a licence	"
1	Trapping without a licence	"
3	Fishing with grapnel-hooks	"
1	Boy under age carrying firearms illegally	"
1	Carrying traps without a licence	Dismissed.
4	Venison in possession out of season	"
1	Allowing dog to run deer	"
4	Carrying firearms without a licence	"
1	Game birds in possession out of season	"
3	Shooting game birds out of season	"
2	Allowing licence and badge to be used	1 appeal dismissed.
1	Using another person's badge	Dismissed.
1	Game in possession out of season	Withdrawn.
1	Setting out traps	"
4	Carrying firearms without a licence	"
49		

DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS ANIMALS.

The coyote nuisance has become a very serious one, as not only have they practically cleaned up all the stock of grouse, killed fawns and the deer themselves by the hundred, but they have made the keeping of sheep in some parts of the Interior almost an impossibility at the present time, and the number of domestic fowl they have killed would total a good many thousand dollars. The whole of the Dry Belt simply swarms with these pests, and to make matters worse their chief food-supply, the rabbits, is gone, so that they are now hard pressed for food and becoming bolder every day. In consequence, deer, which are badly in need of extra care after the bad winter they had to go through, will suffer terribly, and domestic animals and chickens now need almost constant watching.

At the end of last year, owing to the enormous number of coyotes killed, the money voted became exhausted, and an additional $15,000 was arranged for in the Supplementary Estimates, also the vote for the year was raised from $25,000 to $35,000. In spite of this big addition there will not be nearly enough to carry on to the end of the fiscal year. In all, 17,352 bounties have been paid on coyotes this calendar year, in comparison with 7,482 the year before. To what extent coyotes have multiplied may be judged from the fact that until the past year or two the number of coyote bounties paid yearly only amounted to 2,000 or 3,000.

Of the 17,352 bounties paid there were 715 young, on which only half the amount is paid, but in all the Government has paid out the sum of $50,983.50 on these pests alone this year, and judging by the way certificates are still coming in there will be even more next year unless some mortality occurs.

It does not, however, seem possible that they can continue in their present numbers; even if no disease occurs, there is so little food for them this winter, and next spring in the breeding season they will find it very difficult to get enough food to feed their young. Taking these facts into consideration, a diminution of their numbers is looked for. Such a thing, however, is by no means a certainty, and the possibility of no decrease must be taken into consideration, and in such an event the question as to whether the present bounty can be continued will have to be decided.

Since the disappearance of the rabbits the Coast has had a regular plague of big-horned and snowy owls, and domestic fowls and the grouse and pheasants have suffered severely. Hundreds of them have, however, been shot; within the space of two weeks over sixty owls were sent to one taxidermist in Vancouver, and it is probable that we shall soon be rid of them though; in the meantime they will have done a vast amount of damage.

While the coyote question is a bad one, it is pleasing to be able to report that there is a steady decrease in cougars. This does not, of course, apply to every district, as in the Lillooet District cougars are increasing.

In all, 221 cougar bounties were paid this year, in comparison with 235 last year. This may not seem a great falling-off, but it is when you go back a few years and find a steady decrease every year, and see that six years ago the number of bounties paid on cougars was close to 400. Moreover, there are three or four times the number of men hunting them now to what there were then. The falling-off has, however, been most marked on Vancouver Island, only eighty-eight bounties being paid, in comparison with 120 last year.

For the first time a true report of a cougar attacking human beings has been received by this Department. From time to time reports of cougar having chased people have cropped up, but investigation has always proved that nobody was actually hurt and that the reports were groundless. This time, however, it was an actual fact, and as the victims were two small children whose heroism was the equal of anything shown on the battle-fields of Europe, the facts of the case, as given in sworn statements, will be of great interest. They are as follows:—

On September 23rd two children, Doreen Ashburnham, aged eleven, and Anthony Ferrer, aged eight, both of whom live in the vicinity of Cowichan Lake, went to a pasture about half a mile away to get their ponies, each child carrying a bridle. When nearly at the pasture they saw a cougar on the trail not 6 feet away. It immediately sprang on the girl, knocked her down on her face, and stood on her. The little boy called to her to lie quiet as he had a plan; he then jumped from a bush on to the cougar, at the same time striking it with his bridle, with the result that he knocked it off her; the animal immediately attacked him, tearing his nose and scalp and scratching his back. The little girl then went to the boy's assistance, hitting it with her bridle and fists, even putting her arm in its mouth to prevent it biting the boy, and finally driving it off. Both the children were badly bitten and covered with blood, but succeeded in reaching home. They were taken to the hospital, where forty-six stitches were needed to close the boy's wounds. Both children have nearly recovered.

The cougar was killed within a short time, almost where it had attacked the children. It was quite a young animal, probably only two or three years old, but it had a cataract on the left eye and it is likely that the other eye was also affected. This would, of course, result in the animal finding great difficulty in obtaining its natural food, and so through necessity, like tigers and lions, attacked human beings.

There has also been a great falling-off in the number of wolf bounties paid. This, however, is not so much due to the scarcity of wolves as to the fact that extra precautions were taken to prevent wolf bounties being paid on coyote-pelts. To show to what an extent bounties were being wrongly paid, it is only necessary to point out that in 1914 among the Districts of Kamloops, Grand Forks, Greenwood, Kaslo, and Ymir and Okanagan 107 wolf bounties were paid. In 1915 the matter received attention, but not in time to prevent forty-eight more wolf bounties going through. This year, however, just one wolf bounty in all these districts was paid, and that was on a skin that had been verified at this office. It has lately transpired that the same sort of thing is probably going on to some extent in at least one of the northern districts, and an investigation is being made.

The fact of the matter is that a thorough reorganization of the method of payment of bounties is needed. At the present time any J.P. can sign a certificate and charge a fee for so doing. Many of them are far too lax; others have not the requisite knowledge, at any rate, to tell the difference between a large coyote and a small wolf. The only way any improvement can be made is to pick out a certain number of men, regardless of whether they are J.P.'s or not, who can be trusted to follow out their instructions carefully, and make them Bounty Commissioners; some of them to have power to sign coyote and cougar certificates only, others for wolves also. In the Interior, however, where wolves are scarce and their identity has often to be decided by a man who has expert knowledge, the only safe plan is for all so-called wolf-

skins to be sent to this office for identification. In addition, the present plan of allowing people to buy up skins from Indians and then obtain the bounty on them is extremely unsatisfactory. There are at the present time a number of non-resident and irresponsible people buying pelts from anybody, licence or no licence, and then obtaining the bounty by putting in fictitious Indian names. It is also quite possible that some of these pelts may never have been obtained in British Columbia.

BOUNTIES PAID DURING 1916.

District.	Wolves.	Cougars.	Coyotes.	Golden Eagles.
Mainland.				
Atlin	82	..	236	..
Cranbrook	..	6	140	..
Columbia	..	14	237	..
Cariboo	5	20	4,175	5
Fort George	28	..	2,496	..
Fernie	..	4	73	..
Greenwood	..	5	186	..
Grand Forks	..	..	27	..
Kamloops	..	3	2,477	4
Kaslo	..	4	28	..
Lillooet	..	9	2,421	27
North Vancouver	..	9	5	..
New Westminster	..	2	9	..
Omineca	8	..	443	..
Okanagan (North)	1	14	524	..
Prince Rupert	73	..	32	..
Revelstoke	..	2	25	..
Rossland	..	..	4	..
Similkameen	..	11	647	10
Trail	..	9	121	..
Yale	..	2	3,046	2
Vancouver Island.				
Alberni	..	29	..	..
Comox	13	12	..	..
Cowichan	..	36	..	..
Balance of Island	..	30	..	..
Totals	210	221	17,352	48

FUR-FARMING.

The success met with in breeding foxes has varied considerably during the past year, a few operators having met with exceptional success and others with none at all. There is no doubt that the industry can be made a paying business, even with the prices of furs lower than at present, but it becomes more and more evident that foxes require to be handled in just the right way and knowledge of their dispositions is necessary. They must be properly fed and their health looked after by a man who understands their ailments, and, above all, suitable breeding-dens are absolutely necessary or failure will result.

So far returns of all the operators have not been received, none of those from Peace River having yet come in; but, as far as is known at present, all the farms at Telegraph Creek again failed to rear any pups. Some of the foxes had litters, but they either died or were killed by their parents. One operator ascribes the failure to the breeding-dens not being suitable, and very likely this is the case.

On the other hand, two of the farms at Atlin had great results. The third one in that district, owing to the unfortunate death of the owner through a shooting accident, was taken over by new owners and their returns have not yet been received.

While returns have not yet been received from Peace River, it is known that at least one farm bred some foxes this year.

One or two operators have gone out of the business, but, on the other hand, several new farms have been started, so that the prospects for the future of this industry still appear good.

Only three permits to dig out fox-dens were issued this year; they were taken out by W. B. Conroy, J. L. Johnson and E. Haenell (partnership), and Y. Yonaitis.

The following is a list of fox-farms at present being operated in this Province, with the number of foxes in captivity:—

Name.	Address.	Old Foxes.			Pups dug out under Permit.			Pups bred in Captivity.			Total No. of Foxes.
		Silver.	Cross.	Red.	Silver.	Cross.	Red.	Silver.	Cross.	Red.	
Cassiar Silver & Black Fox Co.	Telegraph Creek*.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stikine Fox Co.	Telegraph Creek..	3	11	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
W. E. Lennox	Telegraph Creek*.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thorman & Williams	Telegraph Creek*.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atlin Fur Farming Co.	Atlin	6	14	..	..	..	..	12	12	2	46
J. V. Valkenberg	Atlin	13	5	..	..	..	..	10	4	..	32
J. Sanderson	Atlin	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
J. Yonaitis	*Atlin**	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
J. L. Johnson	Atlin*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pacific Silver & Black Fox Co.	Revelstoke*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Landry & Demorast Co.	Bella Coola	5	6	..	..	..	..	9	5	1	26
Humphray & Axten	Walhachin	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
O. L. Haywood	Fort Fraser	3	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
D. Laiti	Sointula	2	3	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	9
Blayney, A.	St. Francis Lake*.	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
W. McCullough	Pouce Coupe*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
J. H. Stewart	Pouce Coupe*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
M. Coons	Pouce Coupe*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
W. C. Ramsay	Pouce Coupe*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
A. Falk	Pouce Coupe*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals		34	56	6	..	..	..	33	23	3	155

* No returns received.

The Fur Trade.

By degrees it is becoming possible to get more information with regard to the value of the fur trade in this Province, and the more that is learned the more valuable does this trade appear. Up to the present time it has been quite impossible to enforce the regulation with regard to fur-trader's reports and to get proper statistics of fur exported, and even if this were done the statistics would be very incomplete, as numbers of trappers export their furs in small parcels. Sufficient, however, has been learned to amply demonstrate that our fur-bearing animals are an asset of no mean importance, and that during the past year, even with the present price of furs, they have brought a very large amount of money into the Province at the very time it was most badly needed.

The trapper's returns came in a great deal better this year, and as usual the success met with was from one extreme to another. One trapper's return would show he had made as high as $2,000 for a few months' work; the next one probably only a few dollars. However, by making a low estimate of the value of the pelts obtained, recorded on the returns received, the white trappers must have accounted for something like $200,000 worth of furs, and the total value of those taken by the Indians could not have been less than five times this amount. In Vancouver alone something like $200,000 worth of furs were sold during the past year, and in the Peace River District, where it is possible through the efforts of the chief constable of the district to get a pretty accurate idea of the value of furs taken in that district, most of which were marketed at Edmonton, something like $120,000 worth of furs were taken.

Taking these figures into consideration, there must have been at least $1,000,000 and probably $1,500,000 worth of furs exported from the Province during the past year.

Now, this amount is a great deal bigger than it was ten years ago when beaver were almost exterminated, and there was more trapping done out of season than in season. But it is not half what it might be, and will be undoubtedly, if fur-bearing animals are properly conserved. There is still far too much trapping out of season done by Indians. Hundreds of foxes trapped when not in prime condition are sold for about one-fifth of what their value should be, and beaver are still trapped by the thousand out of season. An improvement is being made every year in this respect, but not as big an improvement as there should be.

The Province has millions of acres of land and mountains absolutely useless for anything but game and fur-bearing animals; some of it is not even good for game, but there is not an acre of it that is not valuable for some kinds of fur-bearing animals.

Every year sees a big diminution in the supply of furs, and with the advent of motor-cars the demand is steadily growing. Prices are bound to rise under such circumstances, and if this Province only can increase its stock of fur-bearing animals it will not be many years before they are one of her greatest assets.

There have been a great many complaints from resident traders with regard to the number of non-resident fur-buyers coming in here and spoiling their business. The resident traders have to pay for a licence to trade, the non-resident pays nothing. It is claimed that many of these men buy furs illegally obtained; that is, they buy from men without licences to trap. A good many fur-traders strongly favour a fur-trader's licence under the "Game Act," or that the "Trade Licences Act" be amended to make these non-residents take out a trader's licence, and that the fee for such a licence be a heavy one.

INDIANS.

A year or so ago the Indians were giving practically no trouble at all, except in a few isolated places where they were trapping out of season and killing too many caribou. They seemed to be fairly well reconciled to the game laws; in fact, a good many of the more intelligent ones thoroughly approved of them, and it was quite a common thing for the deputies to receive valuable information from them. However, during the past year or so there has been a considerable change for the worse. Many of the Indians are raising their old story of rights to the land and rights to the game and fish, and it is very evident that they have been wrongly advised. In consequence it has been absolutely necessary to take a firm stand with some of them, as they quite refused to listen to reason. It was most unfortunate their adopting this attitude, as not only did game suffer, but many Indians did also, as there were more prosecutions of Indians this year than for the three or four previous years put together; some of them not only being sent to gaol, but also losing some valuable furs.

In the Peace River District the Indians are, according to the report of the chief constable of the district, doing a tremendous amount of damage, some of it pure wanton destruction. Fur-bearing animals are trapped at any season of the year, while moose and sheep are killed regardless of age or sex or breeding season.

Now, these particular Indians appear to be treaty Indians, and it is said that they, in 1914, were granted nearly sixty-three square miles of the finest land in the Peace River Block, on which they reside for only a very brief period each year and spend the remainder of their time hunting. It is stated that one band of these Indians killed 115 moose last year, and that another band had nearly 3 tons of dried moose-meat. It is no wonder that the settlers are complaining.

No attempt is made to induce these Indians to farm as in the North-west, where they have instructors and are furnished with materials. While they are treaty Indians and Ottawa claims them as her wards, it is left to this Province to support them. They should either give up their land or be made to respect the game laws.

ORGANIZATION OF DISTRICTS.

Under present conditions it is quite impossible to give adequate protection to mule-deer in the Lillooet District, and will be until it is declared organized under the "Game Act."

For several years the Chilcotin Indians, who are the principal offenders, were kept pretty well in hand and there was a good increase of deer, but during the past two years, partly owing to salmon being scarce and partly to certain agitators stirring the Indians up, they have again gone out on their summer trips of slaughter, and the result has been disastrous, so much so that the way deer are being slaughtered it will only be a year or two before the district is quite ruined as far as this species of game is concerned.

Now most of these Indians have good land, cattle, and horses, and can nearly always get all the work they want; moreover, they have an excellent trapping country to the north of them, so that there is no reason why they should not be well off without slaughtering game out of season.

If the district is declared organized the Indians may not kill deer out of season without special permission (the same thing applies to prospectors and farmers), and under these conditions it will be quite possible to put a stop to the slaughter. As far as prospectors and farmers are concerned, now that the means of transportation have so improved in the district,

there is not the need for such privileges to the same extent as before, but in any event those that really need them could be given special permits as provided for in the Act. Attention must also be called to the fact that Kamloops, the adjoining district, has already been declared organized for some years past, as has also all the remainder of the Province to the south, and surely Lillooet can get along just as well as all these other districts.

Moose.

There is nothing new to report with regard to the stock of moose.

Wapiti.

All reports of these animals are good, even those from Vancouver Island. The wapiti in captivity have not done well. After last year's report was written another fawn was born during the most severe part of the winter, but it was not found in time to save its life. Only one other fawn has been born since.

The area of the pen at the Colony Farm was far too small, and all of the animals, with the exception of a cow, calf, and bull, have been removed to the Burnaby Prison Farm, where they have much more room, and it is hoped will do better. It was hoped that there would have been a sufficient increase to warrant turning out some of these animals in the Lillooet District next spring, but it now looks as if at least another year must elapse before it can be done.

Caribou.

Apart from the Chilcotin country, where caribou seem almost exterminated, there have been just as many if not more than there has been during the past few years. Caribou have been reported within a mile or two of the salt water at the head of Dean Channel.

Sheep.

An increase in these animals has been reported from almost everywhere.

Deer.

Last winter's severe weather caused a great mortality amongst deer of all species, especially in some of the Coast inlets, and in parts of the Interior the mule-deer were also terribly harassed by coyotes.

The regulation prohibiting the sale of venison was a great help and was almost universally approved of. The prohibition of killing does of mule-deer will also have had a good effect, but it is not advisable to keep to this regulation for more than a year or two at a time, as it would simply mean that if too many bucks were killed it would result in a great reduction of fawns. It would also do a lot of good if bucks were only open on the Coast for a year or two, but it is so hard to tell the sexes apart in time that it would only result in a great many men shooting them first and looking for their sex afterwards, and a great many does would be left in the woods to rot.

In the Lillooet District mule-deer have greatly decreased, partly due to the bad winter, coyotes, etc., but more to the fact that the Chilcotin Indians are killing far too many, and it is impossible to stop them until the district is declared organized. A year or two ago the prospects for a big increase in mule-deer in this district looked good, as most of the Indians were working. Now, however, there is not so much work for them to do, and salmon having been conspicuous by their absence, they spend most of their time hunting.

Red Deer.

These deer are doing well and one fawn was born, though none was expected this year.

Mountain-goat.

There is nothing new to report with regard to these animals.

Bear.

Bear have never been so plentiful for years. This was due to there being few berries and the salmon not being able to go far up the stream on account of low water.

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

Fox have been extremely plentiful and an unusual number of magnificent silver foxes have been caught. With the decrease of rabbits and the increase of coyotes, it is to be feared that the stock of foxes will fall off.

Lynx were caught in enormous numbers, but unfortunately the price of this kind of pelt fell off greatly.

Beaver were very plentiful, except in the Fort George and one or two of the southern districts, where they have been overtrapped.

Marten have not been plentiful and this species of fur-bearer needs extra protection.

All other fur-bearing animals seem to be, at any rate, holding their own, some of them probably increasing a little.

WILD-FOWL.

Taking the season as a whole, it has been rather disappointing, but the trouble has been with the weather rather than with the number of birds. At the beginning of the season there were lots of local-bred wild-fowl, both ducks and geese, but the long spell of dry weather, which extended almost to the end of October, was most unfavourable for shooting, as all the small ponds were dried up and the birds that did not migrate kept to the larger lakes, where the water was so low they were able to obtain food easily.

The northern birds were also very late in coming in. Last season they were here in fair numbers by the beginning of October, but this year it was pretty well on to the third week of that month before they began to arrive, and even then they came in very slowly. Later on, however, there were lots of them, more even than last year, both ducks and geese, but in the Interior heavy frost coming so early resulted in their moving south almost as soon as they arrived.

On the Coast a good many white-fronted geese were noticeable and quite a number have been shot.

Snipe have been very scarce this season, except for a few days, when they came in large numbers; during those days there was better shooting than for a good many years.

The proposed migratory bird treaty between Great Britain and the United States has been the cause of intense dissatisfaction amongst all shooting-men in the Province, particularly so those on the Coast, who are most affected. Largely signed petitions against the treaty have been got up everywhere, the total number of signatures reaching a good many thousand.

GROUSE.

On the Coast, as a general thing, the stock of both blue and ruffed grouse was about the same as last year, though in a few places there appeared to be an extra good number. It was, however, a very poor year for shooting, as owing to the extremely long, dry spell the birds left their usual haunts and were only to be found in any numbers in dense timber. In addition, they were extremely wild, and the weather being so hot and water so scarce there was practically no scent for dogs to work on, nor could the dogs work for long.

It is greatly to be regretted that it has to be reported that a severe epidemic has almost entirely exterminated all species of grouse in the Interior, and there are barely enough birds left to restock the country. The same pessimistic reports have been received from nearly the whole of the Interior; even the ptarmigan in the North, which in some years can be counted by the thousands, have shared the same fate, and the prairie-chicken in the Peace River District have followed suit; while all along the ridges of the Fraser River in the Dry Belt, where a man could usually find blue grouse by the hundred in a few hours, only an odd bird or two can now be found in a whole day's hard walking.

Last year birds were none too numerous, and the season was in consequence not opened so early as usual (much to a good many men's disappointment), but there appeared to be a fair stock of birds left this spring for breeding; and while reports as to the number of broods seen were not very good, still there was no reason to anticipate such an absolute scarcity as there was when the shooting season started.

Now, this heavy mortality amongst the grouse family, or, for the matter of that, in any other species of game, is by no means a new thing, either in this Province or anywhere else, where birds become very plentiful. It is quite a common thing for some epidemic to occur on

the large grouse and partridge preserves in Europe, and it is one of these epidemics that has occurred here. We had the same thing before in 1905, when the majority of the grouse that were killed in the Interior were badly infested with "ticks." The whole cause of this disease can probably be traced to the so-called rabbits, and if these animals could be totally exterminated it would be an excellent thing in more ways than one. Last winter the rabbits died off by the thousands after flourishing in great abundance for several years, and it is worthy of note that the same thing happened in 1904. The viscera of all hares and rabbits contain a large number of intermediate forms of tapeworm, and when the rabbits die these imperfect parasites are deposited in the ground and taken up by the "ticks," lice, and flies of various sorts, which in turn deposit them on grouse, coyotes, etc., where they soon develop into the perfect tapeworm. That the tapeworm alone is entirely responsible for the mortality is hardly likely, though all the dead prairie-chicken in the Peace River District were found to be badly infested; there are, however, other causes which helped. First of all, it was about as bad a breeding season as it was possible to have; then we have had coyotes, owls, and other vermin in unprecedented numbers, which came with the increase of rabbits, all of which helped to clean up nearly every bird that survived the ravages of the disease.

It will take at least three years for grouse to increase to anything like their old number, and it will mean at least one, if not two, year's entire close season for all species of grouse in almost every district in the Interior.

Pheasants.

The past shooting season has been a very bad one not only on the Mainland, but on Vancouver Island as well. All the reports received before the opening seasons were decided upon proved to be far too optimistic, and had it been possible to find out exactly what a small stock of birds there really were a close season would have been recommended. As a matter of fact, it is a matter of extreme difficulty to get any sort of a correct estimate of the number of pheasants before the shooting season starts, as the birds remain more or less hidden until the last of the grain is harvested.

The scarcity of birds was due to two causes—the extremely severe winter and a very bad breeding season. The winter was by far the worst ever known since pheasants were imported, and, curiously, Vancouver Island and all neighbouring islands suffered even worse than the Mainland. Around Duncan, in the Cowichan District, there was some 5 or 6 feet of snow, and at Comox it was even worse. That the whole stock of pheasants was not exterminated is a marvel, and that this did not happen is entirely due to the fact that almost every farmer and resident of the country, as well as a number of good sportsmen from the cities, assisted in feeding the birds. For the few Deputy Game Wardens to handle the situation alone was an impossibility; most of their time was taken up distributing grain among responsible men who would use it to best advantage. In one district some grain was undoubtedly fed to other birds than pheasants, but the amount so used was a very small part of the total put out.

The difficulties in feeding the birds were very great; in some places, owing to the depth of snow, it was out of the question getting it out at all, and for several days in Victoria the deputies were snow-bound, all traffic even in town being completely stopped, and if there had been tons of grain available it could not have been used. Then, time after time, when with the greatest difficulty grain was put out, another heavy fall of snow would cover it all up.

Great assistance in feeding the birds was rendered by all transportation companies; on some of the trains the officials scattered grain along the line from the moving trains, and this proved to be one of the best methods of distributing. Most valuable assistance was also rendered by a number of Victoria sportsmen who went out and built shelters for feed to be put in. Some of these enthusiasts got storm-bound and did not get home for four or five days. It was, however, the farmers who really did the most, many of them using quantities of their own grain.

In addition to need of food, birds suffered greatly from thirst, but, above all, from lack of "grit" and consequently failed to digest their food; from this cause many birds died with full crops.

Still, in spite of the winter, there is no doubt that in most places a good stock of pheasants survived on the Mainland; when the spring came it looked as if there were really more birds than there were the previous spring.

On Vancouver Island the birds in Cowichan District also showed up well, and there appeared to be a fair stock in the vicinity of Victoria; but in the Comox District there was no doubt that the mortality was very great, and that there were barely sufficient birds left to restock the district.

Following the bad winter came a disastrous breeding season. The birds that survived soon fattened up on the grain that had been covered with the snow and started to lay early, but heavy late frosts spoiled a great number of the early eggs. Then came a period of heavy rain followed by about four months of drought, the drought probably being responsible for as great a loss of young birds as either the frost or wet.

As matters stand at present, the chances of an open season this year are very remote. Any sort of a hard winter might mean not only one year's close season, but two or even more, and present indications for a mild winter are none too good; in fact, it has been necessary to start feeding already. If, however, we have the luck to have a very mild winter and a really good breeding season, a week or ten days' shooting might be possible, but this is about the very best that can be hoped for under present conditions.

Now, to have a close season for pheasants will not only mean a great loss of pleasure to several thousand sportsmen, but it will also mean the loss of something like $10,000 in revenue from gun licences, to say nothing of loss to merchants, transportation companies, etc., from money spent over this form of sport, and which undoubtedly comes to a very large sum yearly.

There is, however, one way by which it is possible to remedy matters, and that is to import several thousand birds from China and turn them out before the breeding season commences. New blood is needed, anyway, particularly on Vancouver Island, where the birds are very undersized. It would be no use doing things by halves; at least 3,000 birds would be needed for both Island and Mainland, and such a scheme would cost a good deal of money. At the present time, though inquiries are being made, it is not certain whether such a number of birds could be obtained or what their cost would be, but at a rough estimate it might be done for something like $5,000. If it could be done for this, or even $6,000, it would be good business, as there is no question that a close season for pheasants next year will mean a much greater loss in actual revenue.

There is also one other matter to be commented upon in connection with pheasants. For the past four years the Game Department has not only paid expenses, but has made a very large profit. A great part of this revenue depends upon the stock of pheasants, and means should be taken not only to keep the stock up, but improve it and guard against the necessity of any such importation in the future, or the possibility of a close season.

For this purpose pheasant-farms on a fairly large scale should be established. We have at the present time a few pens and we breed a few birds each year, most of which go to stock new districts. The number raised each year is from 150 to 200, and amounts to nothing. We should have a sufficient stock of birds in pens to raise from 2,000 to 3,000 birds yearly, and pens big enough to keep them until the winter is over. By doing this there would never be any question of open or close seasons. Government game-farms on a very large scale are in vogue in almost every part of the United States, and we certainly should not be behind our neighbours.

With regard to pheasants in the Interior, in addition to the birds at Penticton, Creston, and Lillooet, they are now established at Summerland in the Okanagan and at Salmon Arm in the Kamloops District.

No further news of the birds at Keremeos has been received. News has, however, come from Queen Charlotte Islands that the birds sent up there are doing well.

Very few birds were bred at Chilliwack this year, as a big enough stock of hens had not been kept up. Most of those that were bred were sent to Duncan and Esquimalt Districts on Vancouver Island, where new blood was very badly needed. There are still a few more birds in the pens which will be sent out as soon as the winter is over.

It has also to be reported that two cocks and five hens of the ring-necked variety were received as a present from Australia. The birds were extremely small and arrived in very poor condition, but anything in the way of new blood is a help. They are being kept up in the pens at Chilliwack.

PRAIRIE-CHICKEN.

In the Kamloops, Okanagan, Greenwood, and Similkameen Districts there is still a fair stock of these birds left, but throughout the remainder of the Province they have shared the

same fate as all other species of grouse. A couple of years ago these birds existed by the thousand in the Peace River District, but they suddenly all died off. There was no question of their having migrated, as numbers of dead birds were picked up.

Ptarmigan.

In the extreme North of this Province it used to be no uncommon thing to see several thousand ptarmigan in a day, but they, like all others of the grouse family, have gone too.

Quail.

The severe weather we experienced last winter was most disastrous to the quail on the Coast. With the exception of the Saanich Peninsula on Vancouver Island, there was an almost total extermination of these beautiful little game birds. There are, however, a few scattered bevies left here and there, and as they breed very rapidly it is only a question of a mild winter or two for them to regain their old numbers.

In the Okanagan Valley quail continue to do well. The winter was severe, but there was nothing like the depth of snow that there was on the Coast, and the birds pulled through in good shape. For several years it seemed hopeless to establish quail on the Mainland, but California quail really seems to be proving a success. The bob-white quail which put in an appearance in the Grand Forks District are about the same in number as they were last year. It is very doubtful if they will ever become permanently established.

European Partridges.

The European partridges that put in an appearance in the neighbourhood of Waneta, in West Kootenay, have disappeared, though a pair or two have worked their way up to Slocan Junction. The presence of these birds in East Kootenay has been pretty well proved to be due to their migrating from the United States, as a number of birds were liberated not far from the boundary-line. Evidently their surroundings are not suitable and they will not stay.

Vancouver Island had its first open season for partridges this year, and the Delta District its second open season. In both districts there were a good number of birds, but they were so wild that very few were shot. There were hardly as many birds in the Delta this year as last year, but a very bad breeding season was responsible for this. So few birds were shot that no harm was done, and if we only have a good winter and breeding season, an open season next year will do no harm, provided it is preceded by an open season for pheasant.

It is about time an importation of partridges was made, as both the Delta and Vancouver Island birds must have new blood introduced before long or we cannot expect them to continue to thrive.

The birds in the Chilliwack District have almost disappeared, and it is very evident they must be regarded as a total failure.

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