

CANADIAN ANIMALS NEAR EXTINCTION

Depletion of the larger game animals, even in the deepest Canadian wilds, is a diaster that hangs over the heads of the present generation, in the opinion of Dr. Rudolph Martin, chief of the division of biology of the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa, expressed before the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Not only have hunters and trappers nearly exterminated many fur-bearing species for the supply of the markets of fashion, but the breaking up of the prairies under the plow has deprived many hoofed and horned species, like the prong-horn antelope, the bison, and members of the deer family, of their pastures and is killing off the species by preventing natural increase. A last refuge of many animals, and one which Dr. Anderson believes should be theirs in perpetuity, is the Arctic.

"A large area of arctic and sub-arctic lands beyond the range of possible cultivation are still occupied by large numbers of wild caribou and a few remnants of musk-oxen", he said. "The Arctic can never be agricultural, but there is a probability of developing a domestic reindeer industry in certain districts and attractive possibilities in attempted domestication of the musk-ox. The economic advisability of replacing a valuable, healthy and thoroughly adjusted wild stock by more expensively reared domestic stock in remote districts is questioned.

"The proportion of the Canadian Arctic area which is actually suited for pasturage is largely problematical and needs investigation rather than speculation. Tundra is not prairie, but consists mostly of mossy swamps or comparatively barren upland. Many extensive areas are rocky or sterile and severe climatic conditions reduce materially the amount of vegetative growth on the limited fertile areas, so that a much greater acreage is required for the support of each animal than in more friendly regions. Population must necessarily be sparse outside of mining areas and enormous distances from markets will prevent profitable commercial exploitation under present methods of transportation."

Dr. Anderson's remarks concerning the Canadian arctic regions apply with equal force to American possessions in interior Alaska, and to vast tracts in northern Siberia, which can never be cultivated, but must remain as permanent grazing lands.

MECHANICS FAIL TO EXPLAIN MIND

Denying that the human being can be explained as a superior penny-in-the-slot machine, Professor William McDougall of Harvard University urged psychologists of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to recognize the striving aspect of human nature as a fundamental category of psychology.

The mechanistic confidence of the nineteenth century is fading away, as the complexity of the living organism is more fully realized, as its powers of compensation, self-regulation, reproduction and repair are more fully explored, he pointed out.

"Let the budding psychologist ponder some phase of human life that is dominated by some strong but thwarted desire," he said. "Let him consider the