

Released when received.

Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

- - -
TO EXTERMINATE RABID COYOTES.
- - -

Washington, D. C. The appropriation by Congress in the Urgent Deficiency Act of \$75,000 for the control of rabies among coyotes in the West has enabled the Bureau of Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to put 5 inspectors and 190 hunters in the field, in addition to its existing organization. These men are to serve in Oregon, Nevada, California, and Idaho, and along the border in Utah. In addition to these measures the Nevada Rabies Commission has signified its intention of expending a large sum of money under recommendations made by the Biological Survey, and it is probable that other States will do likewise. Stockmen and ranch owners are cooperating by furnishing horses and forage free of charge. The importance of preventing the spread of the disease is fully realized.

The coyote has always been a pest to stockmen, but with the advent of rabies it has become a serious danger to persons as well as to stock. In many sections of Oregon, Idaho, California, and Nevada, parents are afraid to send their children to school unless they are well guarded, and there is always danger that domestic dogs will be bitten by the mad animals and spread the disease to the families of their owners. In Oregon and Nevada over 100 persons have received the Pasteur treatment for rabies within the past three years and stock interests have suffered severely. In

one feed lot in Winnemucca, Nevada, a single coyote caused the loss of 23 head of three-year old beef steers.

Although this is regarded as the most serious, it is not the first out-break of rabies among coyotes in the Western States. In 1911 the disease made its appearance in Wallawa County, Oregon, and spread southward. This infestation still continues. In the spring of 1915 the disease made its first appearance in northern Nevada, and at the present time southwestern Idaho, northeastern California, and approximately the northern half of Nevada are infested.

The normal coyote is cunning but cowardly and has a particular aversion to the scent of a human being. When stricken with rabies, however, it does not hesitate to snap at everything in reach and to attack men as well as dogs and cattle. In this condition it does not eat and consequently can not be killed by poisoned baits.

In controlling the disease the Bureau of Biological Survey purposes first to prevent its spread by killing off the coyotes along the borders of the infested districts. After this has been done, the infested areas themselves can effectually be rid of the animals and the disease stamped out.

o # o