



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Press Service



7/16/22

MEMORANDUM TO MR. CHEESMAN, BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

I am sending you 3 copies of the news item entitled

"BIRDS AND BEASTS OF ALASKA INCREASE WITH HELP OF LAW"

which was mailed today. It was distributed as checked below:

Department officials and ~~other~~ receive
~~copies of all releases to the press.~~

Farm Papers.

Farm Editions of Daily Papers.

:Full List.

Daily Newspapers: One in a city--all cities.

:One in a city--in cities having more
than one daily.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Sunday Editions of Dailies: One in a city.

Washington Correspondents and free-lance writers.

Trade Papers as follows:

SENT
★ JUL 12 1922
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT
IN CHARGE ADDRESSING & DUPLICATING

Please forward a copy of this item to the office in your bureau

directly interested.

If additional copies of any article originating in your bureau are desired please attach request for them to the manuscript when it is approved in your office. If you are unable to anticipate such a need, please request the desired number of copies immediately upon receipt of this memorandum.

Yours very truly,
F. M. RUSSELL,
In Charge,
Press Service.

15
Boycott
18
Mr. Bone



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**EDITOR: THIS STORY IS SENT YOU FOR
EXCLUSIVE USE IN YOUR CITY.**

Released for publication, Sunday, July 16, 1922.

BIRDS AND BEASTS OF ALASKA
INCREASE WITH HELP OF LAW

Wild animal life still abounds in Alaska and is not being ruthlessly exterminated, says Governor Scott C. Bone, in his first annual report on the Alaska Game Law just published by the United States Department of Agriculture as Department Circular 225. The report, which is for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921, calls attention to the need for continued protection and conservation of game, with certain exceptions, and emphasizes the impossibility of literal enforcement of the law in a territory so large, inaccessible, and sparsely populated.

Alaska, it would seem from this report, is our last great reservoir of game, comprising 600,000 square miles of wild land and 30,000 miles of coast line, and offering a haven for large and small game, fur-bearing animals, and birds of great variety. Estimates as to this horde of animal life are said to be largely guesswork, but reports made by game wardens, Biological Survey agents, hunters, prospectors, and other outdoor men lead to the belief that many kinds of animals are increasing in numbers or are at least holding their own.

Bears of all varieties, caribou, and moose, although diminished in certain sections, have not as a whole decreased largely in recent years. Mountain sheep and mountain goats are maintaining their numbers, but deer are probably less plentiful, partly on account of the attacks of wolves and, it is thought, partly on account of the depredations of migratory cannery men. Reports from some sections say that beavers are being exterminated by trappers, while in other places they are said to have increased to such an extent as to dam up streams and do great damage.

The Legislature of Alaska has provided for bounties of \$15 each on wolves and 50 cents each for eagles killed. Wolves and wolverenes are ruthless destroyers of game and fur animals, and eagles are believed to kill many kids of the mountain goat.

Strange to say, the brown bear, considered a predatory animal and sometimes the aggressor in attacks on man, is theoretically protected by the law, but because of the nature of the beast it is a meaningless legal form. Black, grizzly, and polar bears are in better favor.

Moose on the Kenai Peninsula appear to be in greater numbers than formerly, though the herds may be decreasing in other parts of the Territory. Deer are, perhaps, less plentiful except in southeastern Alaska.

Because of the low price of furs, there has been less trapping than usual, and minks, martens, and beavers seem to be increasing rapidly. Lynxes, which disappeared for a few years, are returning along with small game. Sea otters, as a result of protective legislation, are multiplying noticeably. The fox-farming industry is developing. Game birds are abundantly in evidence, ptarmigan and grouse being more plentiful than in years.

An appendix to the report contains tables showing licenses paid by non-residents for hunting, and for shipping game, skins, heads, and horns. Citizens of the United States not residents of Alaska pay a hunting license of \$50 and non-resident aliens \$100. Special moose-shipping licenses are \$150. Various fees are charged to permit shipping of trophies for other than private use: \$10 for a head of a mountain sheep, \$5 for the head of a mountain goat, \$40 for a pair of moose horns, and \$5 for a bear skin. During the year 24 hunting licenses were issued, 23 to citizens of the United States non-resident in Alaska and one to a citizen of Great Britain. A license is not required of residents of the Territory.