



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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SEVERE PENALTIES FOR
ALASKAN LAW BREAKERS

Public approval of the new game and fur law in Alaska is shown by the strong enforcement of its penalties by the local courts. For example, a bonfire of furs was a novelty recently adopted by the employees of the Alaska Game Commission at Juneau. One mink skin and 255 muskrat skins, seized and forfeited in law-enforcement work, were burned. The skins were so unprime as to be worthless and entirely unfit to be placed on the market, although they would have been worth about \$400 had they been in prime condition.

A fine of \$500 was recently imposed on an alien for dealing in furs without a license; a fur buyer was fined \$120 and costs for failing to keep records of fur-buying transactions; a canning company was fined \$25 for serving game birds to its employees; a native Indian was fined \$25 for shooting a beaver; and a merchant and fur dealer was fined \$25 and costs for purchasing and possessing an unbranded blue-fox skin that had been sold to him in violation of the Territorial Act. Possession of poison for killing foxes, killing geese out of season, and trapping without a license drew fines of \$25; fines of \$25 and jail sentences of 60 and 90 days were the penalties for trapping beavers out of season; killing and possessing a female deer cost the offender \$50; killing mountain sheep in a game refuge resulted in a fine of \$250 and 90 days in jail. One registered guide had his license revoked for permitting his party to kill game illegally.

The Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture is represented on the Alaska Game Commission and has been able to assist in many ways in the administration of the Alaska Game Law. The bureau feels that excellent results are being accomplished, although the new act has been in operation only since August, 1925.

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