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BEAVERS AND MARTENS MAY
AGAIN BE TRAPPED IN ALASKA.

Under new regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture on August 30, 1921, for the protection of all land fur-bearing animals in Alaska, an open season is provided for trapping beavers and martens in the Territory. This announcement will be read with interest by trappers in Alaska and by fur dealers in the United States, since there has been no open season for killing beavers there since 1910, and none for martens since 1916. Prior to the time when close seasons were established on these valuable fur-bearers the animals were being rapidly exterminated. In many localities in the interior of Alaska beavers had disappeared entirely and martens were rapidly diminishing in numbers. It was to conserve them and permit them to increase that the close season was provided.

Because of the varying climatic and physiographic features of different parts of Alaska, and in order to conserve our fur resources with justice to all, the Territory is divided into three trapping districts, in each of which the conditions relating to fur are comparatively uniform. District No. 1 includes the Aleutian Islands, the Alaska Peninsula and neighboring islands, and southeastern Alaska, mainland and islands, from Yakutat Bay to Dixon Entrance, and in this area beavers now may be trapped from December 1 to March 31 and martens from November 16 to March 31. District No. 2 includes the mainland and islands north of the areas of District No. 1 as far as the

headwaters of the streams flowing into the Arctic Ocean north of latitude 68°. District No. 3 includes the region drained by the streams entering the Arctic Ocean north of District No. 2. In both these districts the open season for killing beavers and martens begins November 16 and ends March 31.

The Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, which administers the law protecting land fur-bearing animals in Alaska, has been conducting investigations for the past year with a view of again permitting the killing of beavers and martens where practicable. These investigations have shown that while in some few districts beavers and martens are still scarce, in many others they have increased to the extent that no harm will result in allowing them to be killed during at least one season. If after one season's trapping, it is found that these valuable fur-bearers can not maintain proper numbers, the matter of again providing a close season the year round will be considered.