

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Biological Survey

DIVISION OF INFORMATION

FOR RELEASE MONDAY OCTOBER 16, 1939

Government Will Sell 299 Buffaloes, Elk, and Deer

Sixty dollars will buy anyone a live, half-ton buffalo, \$55 will be enough to purchase a mature elk, and \$45 will give one title to a full-grown mule deer. These prices were recently approved by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes for the sale of 299 surplus buffaloes, elk, and deer on big-game preserves administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey.

All prices are f. o. b., and checks must be payable to the Treasurer of the United States. The Government reserves the right to reject any orders.

To avoid overgrazing of the ranges within the big-game preserves, surplus stocks in the herds are disposed of annually, according to a Biological Survey announcement. This year 156 buffaloes, 100 mule deer, and 43 elk are offered for sale from the herds at the National Bison Range, Moiese, Mont.; Fort Niobrara Game Preserve, Valentine, Nebr.; and Sullys Hill Game Preserve, Fort Totten, N. Dak.

An animal may be purchased either alive or drawn and quartered. Prices vary, depending on whether the animal is butchered on the range but removed by the purchaser or taken alive, crated, and shipped.

Buffaloes weighing from 600 to 900 pounds sell for \$45 to \$60. Elk bring \$35 to \$55, while mule deer cost from \$30 to \$45. Adult elk weigh between 450 and 600 pounds each, and the mature deer between 150 and 250 pounds.

In the sale of these big-game animals, preference will be given to applications for purchasing the animals alive for propagation or exhibition, Survey officials said.

Surplus animals not sold may be obtained by State, county, city, or municipal zoos, parks, and game preserves, or by institutions desiring the animals for propagation or exhibition. The cost of capturing, crating, and transporting the animals must be assumed by the applicants.

Organizations and individuals who wish to obtain one of these big-game animals may get detailed information by writing to the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.