

WATERFOWL - A RESOURCE IN DANGER?

Though ducks may be more plentiful in many parts of Canada this autumn because of improved water conditions on nesting grounds, Mr. Arthur Laing, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, recently cautioned hunters, naturalists, bird watchers, photographers and the tourist industry against over-optimism about the future of this wildlife resource. "Periodic droughts and increased numbers of hunters have seriously affected waterfowl populations," Mr. Laing said, "but most serious of all are the competing human demands for 'wetlands' where waterfowl nest, feed and rest during migration. A multitude of flood control, drainage, irrigation, power, urban and industrial projects are changing the face of the landscape and affecting waterfowl production and distribution. Drained, wetlands can no longer produce waterfowl."

A TOURIST ATTRACTION

Waterfowl provided over three million days of recreation to Canadian hunters alone in 1961, Mr. Laing said. Approximately 345,000 Canadians hunted waterfowl that year, spending over \$27 million on accommodation, travel, licences, equipment and supplies. Mr. Laing observed that many tourists coming into Canada, and many Canadians on vacation, were eager to see wild creatures in their natural surroundings. Revenue brought into Canada by U.S. and overseas visitors amounted to approximately \$482 million in 1961 and \$560 million in 1962. A substantial part of these expenditures was attributable to the country's wildlife. Attendance at national parks famous for their wildlife rose from 100,000 in 1911 to 1,000,000 in 1939 and 7,500,000 in 1962.

Because waterfowl management requires more than local, or even national, action, an International Migratory Bird Committee has been formed to study problems and recommend solutions.

Canada, said Mr. Laing, must make a countrywide inventory of wetlands and classify them according to their usefulness to waterfowl. With breeding grounds, harvesting areas and migration routes in mind, the naturalists must determine where additional habitat preserves and sanctuaries are needed. The possibilities must be explored of manipulating water levels and edge cover to improve waterfowl nesting conditions and so increase production.

COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS

Mr. Laing said that, while landowners were becoming increasingly aware of the value of wetlands in their natural state associated with recreation, grazing, and water conservation, some method must be developed for adequate compensation of farmers who agreed to maintain their wetlands for continued waterfowl production. A feeling was growing that, if the wetland crop was to be ducks, there should be some return for their production, as there was for other crops.

All these objectives have been incorporated in pilot projects now under way that will be followed by wider programmes and will define gaps in knowledge. Resource users may have to assist in paying the cost of preserving wetlands, preventing crop depredations and directing a share of revenue to owners of wetlands.

POPULATION NEARS 19 MILLION

Canada's population on July 1 this year amounted to an estimated 18,928,000, an increase of 328,000 over July 1 last year, and an increase of 690,000 since the June 1, 1961 Census, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported recently. In the second quarter of this year the population growth amounted to 82,000 - slightly larger than the 79,000 increase in the first three months. Assuming the present quarterly rate of growth in the next quarter, Canada's population will reach the 19,000,000-mark by the first of October as previously forecast.

Among the provinces, Ontario had the largest numerical increase in population in the last 12 months of 111,000 (1.7 per cent). Quebec was next with an increase of 99,000 or 1.8 per cent, and British Columbia third with a rise of 35,000 or 2.2 per cent. Alberta gained 34,000 or 2.5 per cent, Manitoba 15,000, Nova Scotia 12,000, Newfoundland 11,000, New Brunswick 6,000, Saskatchewan 3,000, and Prince Edward Island 1,000.

IMPORTANT HEALTH APPOINTMENT

Dr. E.T. Bynoe, a native of the West Indies, was recently appointed chief of the Laboratory of Hygiene of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Dr. Bynoe's service with the Laboratory of Hygiene dates back to April 1939. He was successively bacteriologist, Chief of Bacteriology and Acting Chief of the Laboratory before receiving his present appointment.

Dr. Bynoe was born in Barbados in 1905. McGill University was the scene of his scholastic career, where he earned his B.S.A., M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in 1928, 1930 and 1935. His principal study was the tubercle bacilli. In all, Dr. Bynoe has worked in bacteriology for 35 years, including many years in teaching, research and government service.

As chief of the Laboratory of Hygiene, he will be responsible for administration of a programme that includes over 50 research and service projects.

EARLY COSTUMES UNDER STUDY

Did Canadian pioneers of Scottish origin do their homsteading in kilts and knee socks? Were spinning wheels and looms commonly used by frontier women? Who made pioneer bonnets, gloves, stoles...? These and other questions may be answered when Robert-Lionel Seguin of Rigaud, Quebec, completes a study of early Canadian clothing for the National Museum of Canada.

"We are often asked to supply information on early Canadian folk culture to schools, scientific institutions, and members of the public", says Dr. L.S. Russell of the National Museum, "Mr. Seguin's report will provide valuable information on wearing apparel and the influence of ethnic groups on costume design in Canada's early days."

Plans to feature Confederation styles in Museum displays will add colour to Canada's Centennial Year, 1967.