

The Dominion Parks Branch, of the Department of the Interior, asked Provincial Ministers of Agriculture to give their views on the value of Birds. Their answers are given in this paper. If you think bird protection is unnecessary, read what they say.

## WHY SASKATCHEWAN BELIEVES IN BIRD PROTECTION.

By HON. C. M. HAMILTON, *Minister of Agriculture,  
Province of Saskatchewan.*

THE Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is pleased to have this opportunity of reassuring the people of Canada of its deep interest in all matters pertaining to the conservation of bird life, more especially as they relate to the promotion of Canada's first industry. All too often when referring to our natural resources, we ignore our wild life heritage, and yet, in the final analysis, it is doubtful whether any other natural resource, at this stage of Saskatchewan's history, has yielded so much in actual cash value as the birds and animals of our province.

Were it not for the activities of our bird friends, which invade our province during the season when insect pests are found in greatest numbers, our farm crops would be seriously damaged, and in many cases entirely destroyed, as actually happened in many parts of southern Saskatchewan during the grasshopper outbreak last summer. More than one intimation has been received of the value of the birds during this plague. For example, a farmer, near Rouleau, reported that his crop was badly infested. An official of the department was instructed to make an investigation of the complaint, but upon arrival at the farm he was informed that his services were not required for the "gulls had cleaned them up." Unfortunately our bird population is considerably below normal, otherwise these outbreaks would not likely develop to such serious pro-