

*Supply—Indian Affairs*

The organizations in the interior of British Columbia were very interested to read this. I sent them copies of this letter. I should like the minister to comment later on what is being done in this regard. Then the reply concluded:

The responsible ministers of the two governments have exchanged letters to explore the possibilities of close co-operation in the future development and management of the area. The process of exploration has been useful and I am hopeful that it will soon lead to an agreement for co-ordinated and co-operative activities for the benefit of wildlife and the people who live in and visit the area.

This is of great interest to the persons in the southeastern portion of British Columbia particularly who are interested in wildlife, and we shall be glad to know what developments there have been to date. In this connection I should also like to bring to the attention of the minister—I do not know whether this is because of the developments on the Columbia River or whether it is caused by something else—that there are other flyways developing now. For instance, there are ducks and geese coming into the area near Beaton on the north arm of the Arrow Lakes. There are large numbers coming into a place called Shoreholme on the upper Arrow Lakes. We never saw these before. This is an interesting change. There are also others coming into the flatlands just south of Burton on the Columbia River. There seems to have been a change from the flyways which the ducks used previously. I thought that the minister and his officials would be interested to know this.

When the minister replies I should also like him to tell us what is happening with regard to the consultations between the wildlife service and the appropriate officials in the government of British Columbia having to do with the numerous problems concerning wildlife and fish. These are problems which have been created by the development of the Columbia Treaty projects and concern redbird and other species of fish, as well as the necessity for a trout hatchery. I might say that at one time we had a federal government hatchery near Gerrard which produced large numbers of fish for release into the various lakes. This operated very successfully and many sportsmen and other people in southeastern British Columbia were very sorry to see the federal government pull out of that project some years ago. I think it was quite a few years ago. The hatchery performed a very useful service at that time.

I have one or two suggestions to make. I suggest to the minister that it would be a good idea for him and his officials to consider the

need for a national code of ethics as between farmers and hunters across Canada. There is a different law in nearly every province in respect of trespassing and things of that sort. Generally speaking every farmer is quite willing to co-operate with hunters if his rights are respected, but he is not prepared to do so if his gates are left open and his cattle get out on the road. I know of one case where hunters came in and shot the tails off cattle on the ranges and another case where they brought in beer, broke the bottles, left the pieces of glass on the side of a creek and the cattle cut their feet. Years ago it was very easy to get an agreement with property owners and farmers to allow the residents of the area to hunt and fish, but with the increase in the number of roads, undesirable people get into areas. They are not necessarily hunting in the true sense but rather shooting everything that is alive including squirrels, birds and other things of that nature.

• (4:30 p.m.)

I suggest it would be a good idea for the wildlife services in co-operation with the wildlife organizations to consider the possibility of bringing this question before one of the dominion-provincial conferences. In co-operation with the ministers of agriculture of the various provinces and the federal Minister of Agriculture it might be possible to draft a national code which would be agreeable to the farmers' organizations and wildlife organizations. The provincial governments might then agree to adopt this code as provincial legislation. There would then be an opportunity for people to fish, hunt and enjoy the wilderness while at the same time the rights of the property owners and farmers would be protected. I think something could be done in this regard and I should like to see this matter taken up by the appropriate department when a dominion-provincial conference is being held. Perhaps it could be initiated by the present minister in co-operation with the Minister of Agriculture. This is something we should work toward.

In conclusion I have one other suggestion to make which I have made before on two other occasions. It is my firm belief that there is a need in this country for a college of conservation which would teach the principles of conservation of our natural resources including fish and wildlife. There are a lot of good, young boys in this country who are not inclined to go to universities and not very interested in higher academic education but they could make a contribution in this field as