

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, \$36,180.

Mr. BENNETT: This item was allowed to stand in order that I might ask the minister a few questions with regard to his department. In connection with supplies for the parks I told the minister I would like him to give the committee information as to the names of the persons from whom the oil used on the roads was purchased, and the prices paid for it in the various parks of the west. The minister said he would obtain the information.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources): That has reference to the oil dressing for laying dust. I inquired into the matter after my right hon. friend mentioned it to me. Quotations were asked on approximately 480,000 gallons of dust laying road oil, which is the description given of this material. Nine firms were asked to tender, including three firms in Banff, Alberta, operating gasoline and oil service stations there. Those invited to tender were the Imperial Oil Company and the British American Oil Company, both of Toronto; McColl-Frontenac Oil Company, of Montreal; North Star Oil Company of Calgary; Prairie Cities Oil Company, of Winnipeg; the Brewster Transport Company of Banff; the Union Oil Company of Banff; the Texaco Oil Company, of Banff; and the British American Oil Company, per E. S. MacMillan, Calgary. Quotations were received from the British American Oil Company, Toronto; the Union Oil Company, Banff; and the Brewster Transport Company, Banff. The lowest tender, being a satisfactory price, was accepted.

Mr. BENNETT: What was the price?

Mr. CRERAR: It was submitted by the Brewster Transport Company.

Mr. BENNETT: What was the price?

Mr. CRERAR: I do not seem to have that information here, but I can say that the 1936 price was slightly higher, by about three-twentieths of a cent per gallon, than the 1935 price, but it was lower than the 1934 price by about two-fifths of a cent per gallon.

Mr. BENNETT: I should like to have the tender prices.

Mr. CRERAR: I have not that information at the moment, but I shall be glad to give it under some other item that may come up after six o'clock. For the information of my right hon. friend I may say that the delivery of this oil was made through the Imperial Oil Company.

Mr. BENNETT: That was to be my next question, through what producing company

[Mr. Rogers.]

the delivery was made. The minister has answered it; it was the Imperial Oil Company. The next question I wanted to ask was whether that covered supplies for all the roads in all the parks of western Canada.

Mr. CRERAR: Yes, the tender was a total tender for 480,000 gallons.

Mr. BENNETT: Then perhaps the minister can give me the particulars a little later as to the tenders.

Mr. CRERAR: Yes, I can give that. All I have here is the difference.

Mr. NEILL: This item deals, I think, with the establishment of open seasons and that sort of thing. There has been a good deal of difficulty about that in British Columbia. I suppose it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, with the different seasons that prevail, to draw up regulations governing the whole of Canada, that will satisfy everyone, but I have had a number of complaints from the district I represent. Apparently they do not object so much to the season being cut down to two months for geese and ducks, but they object to the dates set. As far as I can make out, on Vancouver island the most acceptable period, if the season is to be cut down to two months, would be December and January. In some districts it is claimed that the ducks have not arrived during the present open period, and that the people there are practically prevented from getting any ducks at all. In some of these remote places, where steamers call only once or twice a month, deer in season and wild ducks and geese are about the only sources of fresh meat, and it is really an important matter. I am sure the minister must have had representations from gun clubs and similar organizations in British Columbia. Is it intended to have the same period as last year, which ran from the middle of October to December?

Mr. CRERAR: Naturally there are some differences of opinion among individuals, gun clubs and other organizations as to just what period should constitute the open season. The practice of the officials of the department is to get in touch with the officials of the provincial government having to do with the preservation of wild life in each province, and the open season is arrived at in consultation with them and after taking into consideration the representations made by bodies such as those to which my hon. friend has referred. In the administration of many matters, of course it is impossible to define the regulations in such a way as to please everybody, but in this matter the broad principle guiding the setting of open seasons is what will best help preserve the wild fowl of the country.