

Supply—Resources and Development

the local authorities should be able to make such regulations as are necessary to protect farmers' crops in the interval.

Mr. Coldwell: In dealing with migratory birds, has consideration been given to paying compensation for the very thing mentioned by the hon. member for Calgary West? Those of us who have lived in the country for a long time have seen crops of wheat, and particularly crops of barley, utterly destroyed by flocks of ducks. Many people enjoy duck shooting but very few farmers whose crops are ruined by ducks or geese feel kindly disposed toward either the birds or the hunters. Some thought should be given to finding ways and means of compensating farmers for their losses.

I am not suggesting that Canada alone should do this as this is an international problem. As has been pointed out by the hon. member for Calgary West and the hon. member for Lanark, most of the ducks raised in Canada are shot south of the line. Whether they are shot in the United States, in Mexico or elsewhere does not matter, but certainly some consideration should be given to providing compensation for these farmers. This destruction occurs mainly when the ducks are migrating from the north to the south.

I agree with what the hon. member for Calgary West has said about ducks being immature in September. As a matter of fact, they require some grain to become fleshy or palatable. Ducks that come down from the north often have a strong fishy flavour. I do not want to see these birds suffer the fate of the migratory pigeon which used to come down in thousands but has been extinct for a number of years, but I think we have to consider both the person who enjoys shooting and the farmer who loses his crops because of these migratory birds.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): I am in entire sympathy with the hon. member for Rose-town-Biggar but may I say that the fish and game association to which I belong has already done a great deal along that line.

Mr. Coldwell: I know that some organizations do that.

Mr. McLure: Will the minister take into consideration complaints similar to those raised by the hon. members for Lanark and Calgary West in connection with geese and brant? The complaints in this connection are the same as those in connection with ducks.

Mr. Huffman: I am in accord with what the hon. member for Calgary West has stated with respect to the closing dates of a season. Representations have been made to me on behalf of hunters along the shores of lake

Erie. In an adjacent area a number of game preserves are registered with the department and no shooting is permitted within a half mile of those preserves. These preserves are in the marshy areas and the ducks are fed there. But the ducks are chased from one preserve to another, the shooting taking place in between. Many people do not have a great deal of time to spend in duck shooting and the representations that have been made to me have been that they would like to be able to shoot over baited areas and the bag limit strictly enforced. I would ask the minister to give this request consideration. They would prefer to have the bag limit examined and carefully taken care of.

Mr. Blair: Before the minister replies, I should like to point out that there is also the question of geese. We know the good work that was done by Jack Miner at his place near Windsor so far as the preservation of geese is concerned. I should like to call the attention of the minister to a situation that existed along the Ottawa river in Renfrew county this spring. Geese came there and there was no previous sanctuary. I understand that the province of Ontario gave some money and possibly there was a dominion grant. Apparently, however, there was not sufficient money to buy enough grain to feed the geese. Some arrangements should be made. I do not know whether there is any idea of establishing a sanctuary but apparently a farmer in the district gave all the grain he could possibly afford to give to feed the geese. He received some small help from the province and I think from the dominion but it was not sufficient. The game wardens were attempting to drive the geese off the grounds before they were ready to go north where the lakes were still frozen. If that situation should develop again I think we should do everything possible to preserve the wild geese together with the ducks because I think wild geese are in the same class as other migratory fowl.

Mr. Winters: At the outset may I say to my hon. friend for St. John's West that the name of the wildlife officer in Newfoundland is G. L. M. Tuck. The matter of the seasons for shooting wildlife is rather complicated. There is an international convention between the United States and Canada, and there are conventions between the United States and Mexico. From time to time we have meetings of our wildlife officers with the provincial wildlife authorities to which we invite people from the United States and Mexico in an effort to co-ordinate the over-all policy as to shooting ducks and other migratory waterfowl. The provinces have their own game legislation and regulations. In