

Canada and U.S. Will Protect Birds

Farmers and Sportsmen Benefit
Greatly by New International
Measures

The international Convention for the protection of migratory birds in Canada and the United States, ratified in December last, constitutes the most important and far-reaching measure ever taken in the history of bird protection. It affords the best means of ensuring not only a cessation of the decrease in the numbers of our migratory birds such as the insectivorous birds, the wild-fowl, waders and sea birds, but, in many cases, it assures an increase in their numbers, which have been ruthlessly depleted. It affects over 1,000 species of our chief insect-eating and game birds. It guarantees to the farmer the continued existence of the insect-eating birds, the most powerful and active allies he has in the fight against the destroyers of his crops; and it guarantees to the sportsman a never-failing supply of ducks, geese, and other game birds.

In fulfillment of its obligations under the Convention, the Canadian Government introduced the Migratory Birds Convention Bill to carry out the provisions of the Convention, and this measure has recently passed both Houses of Parliament. As soon as assent is given to the bill, regulations will be promulgated fixing close seasons.

In the case of insectivorous birds, it will be unlawful to kill them or to take their eggs at any time of the year. The close seasons on ducks and geese will not exceed three and one-half months, and the dates of opening and closing will be fixed in accordance with local conditions and after consultation with the proper authorities in the different provinces. On a number of birds, such as the cranes, swans, curlew and most of the shore-birds, with the exception of woodcock, snipe, certain plover and yellowlegs, which are becoming greatly reduced in numbers, a close season of ten years will be provided. The wood duck and eider duck will also be given special protection. Where they are injurious to agricultural or other interests, provision will be made for the killing of protected birds under special permit. Regulations will also be made to prohibit the shipment of migratory birds or their eggs during the close seasons and generally to govern the traffic in them and their eggs.

While the numbers of the migratory birds in Canada and the United States have been most seriously depleted by various causes, confidence is felt that, with international co-operation, and, particularly, the prohibition of spring shooting, a gradual increase in the abundance of our wild bird life will take place.—C.G.H.

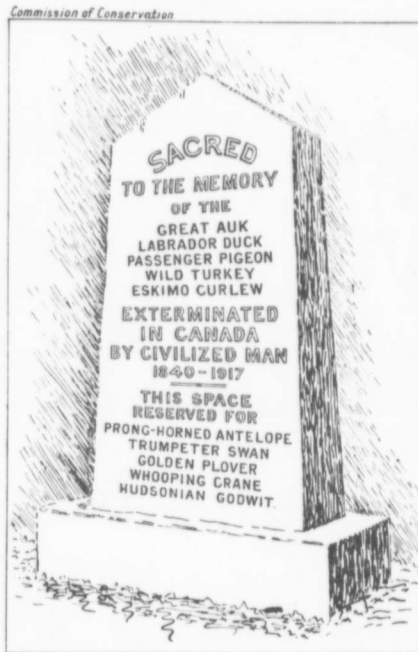
LET THERE BE LIGHT

In the summer of 1916, the Commission of Conservation conducted a detailed survey of 400 representative farms in Dundas county. Of these, less than one per cent practised systematic selection of their seed grain, similar to that followed by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. Three per cent treated their seed grain for smut. Only nine per cent grew wheat, but practically all grew oats. Of the latter, slightly more than half knew the name of the variety grown. Forty-three per cent did not know the varieties of any of the grain sown on their farms.

breed in that region, which is in the heart of the great duck-breeding grounds of this continent, and to bring back young ducklings to form a nucleus for the propagating work.

About thirteen different species, including a considerable number of canvas-backs, were thus procured, pictures were taken showing their nests, and the situations and conditions surrounding the breeding places have been reproduced on the Connecticut farm. A certain number of them are pinioned, so as to supply a breeding stock, but a large majority so raised are allowed to migrate with the wild fowl which come to the refuge on their

Adapted from "Our Vanishing Wild Life," by W. T. Hornaday.



What has posterity done for us?

AND WHY SHOULD WE DO ANYTHING FOR POSTERITY? IT IS THIS SHORT-SIGHTED ATTITUDE WHICH IS EXTINGUISHING MANY VALUABLE SPECIES OF CANADIAN WILD LIFE.

A WILD DUCK FARM

About two years ago, two public spirited citizens, interested in wild life conservation, acquired about 4,000 acres of waste land in the state of Connecticut, with a view to establishing a sanctuary for wild fowl, and of increasing the supply of game by scientific propagation. They sent an expert to lake Winnipegosis in Manitoba to study the habits of the ducks that nest and

migrations. The birds born and bred in the refuge return to it on their flights north, knowing that they will find protection in their old home. The experiment has been most successful, and is encouraging those who feel that propagation is one of the very important measures which must be undertaken to restore wild bird life.—William S. Haskell, in *Fifth Annual Report of the Commission of Conservation*.

Make Your Money Work for You

Better buy one of the Government's war savings certificates. They yield over 5 per cent interest and have the whole Dominion of Canada as security. You can get your money back any time you wish or leave it out for three years.

A new certificate that is just the thing to teach your boy or girl proper investment habits has just been issued. It costs \$8.60 and pays back \$10.00 at the end of three years. For \$21.50 you can get a certificate redeemable at \$25 in three years, or for \$86 you can get one worth \$100 in three years. That is better than letting your money lie unproductive.

The certificates can be had from any bank, money-order post office, or direct from the Department of Finance, Ottawa. Delay costs you money.—M.J.P.

FIRE-PROOF SHINGLES?

A field for investigation of tremendous importance to the industries affected lies in an attempt to discover a satisfactory treatment for wood shingles that will render them measurably fire-retardant. No process can ever make wood "fire-proof," for no class of material will resist fire under all conditions. Innumerable experiments have been made to demonstrate the efficacy of various compounds, but conclusions of practical value have never been reached. While tests have proved certain treatments to be suitable for one particular condition, such as retarding fire, the substances used have failed to embody equally valuable qualities of permanence and weather resistance. A good shingle fire-retardant must also have endurance, insolubility, attractiveness and cheapness.

With the discovery of a satisfactory method of treatment, there does not appear to be any sufficient reason why shingles should not become a most desirable roof covering for dwellings and other buildings outside congested areas. They have adaptability and beauty superior to most roofings, and entail the least first cost. Since the temporary nature of many of our buildings, the migratory tendencies of our people and the rapid development of our cities and towns are factors making the use of wooden construction advisable, to attempt to legislate the shingle or the frame dwelling out of existence is both uneconomical and impracticable in Canada at the present time.—J.G.S.

The Minneapolis and St. Paul railway is planting trees by machinery to replace snow fences.