

Supply—Northern Affairs

she states that this Last Mountain lake sanctuary was the first wild fowl refuge in Canada, being established by the federal government in 1887. Without too great an expense it should be possible to acquire adjoining acreage and make the present sanctuary into a large self-contained protected area on one of the main flyways of migratory birds on this continent, where wild fowl could feed without encroaching too much on farmers' land. Crops could be planted in the sanctuary and the marsh areas maintained accordingly.

Dealing with this suggestion, the *Manitow Times* states that such a scheme would be beneficial to the local economy because it would attract a large number of people to the area.

I noticed in the *Free Press Weekly* of May 3, 1961 a reference to what the government of Alberta is doing in respect to crop damage by wild fowl. I realize this is a provincial matter; nevertheless I thought I would draw the attention of the minister to it because he may be able to work with the Saskatchewan government in the same way. This reference was as follows:

This year hunters will pay a special \$1 fee into an insurance fund when they buy their provincial licence. The fund will be used to compensate farmers for crop losses caused by game and migratory water fowl.

I should like to ask the minister if he would outline his department's policy with regard to the crane problem during the present year.

Mr. Herridge: I have a few brief remarks to make on this item because I have always been interested in wildlife, as are many of my constituents. The conservation of our game birds, fish and other wildlife is a matter of great interest and local concern.

There has been considerable concern expressed in the Kootenays over the prospect of dams being built on the Columbia river, and at a recent meeting of all the rod and gun clubs in southern British Columbia, representing 3,225 members, a resolution was unanimously passed expressing opposition to the building of what is known as the High Arrow dam.

I have risen particularly to deal with the fact that last year they asked for co-operation between the federal and provincial governments in connection with a study of this whole problem—the impact of the development of these water resources on the fish and wildlife of our district. This was a topic of discussion at a meeting held in Creston and at a meeting held later, two or three weeks ago, in Vernon, and I should like the minister to tell us when he speaks what has been the result of that request, not only on the part of the rod and gun clubs but on the part of the

British Columbia federation of fish and game clubs. Perhaps he will tell us what has been done in respect to research as a result of co-operation between federal and provincial agencies in respect to this matter which is of such serious importance.

There has been a long continued interest in the constituency I have the honour to represent in the preservation of Duck lake, an area at the end of Kootenay lake adjacent to Creston flats. This question has been discussed during the year between federal and provincial authorities, local rod and gun clubs and other persons interested, and I am pleased to note that Dr. Munro, who is a well known advocate of wildlife conservation, has been interested in this project for many years and supports wholeheartedly the views of those who are anxious to preserve Duck lake for the nesting of the transient ducks passing through that area. Research into this problem has been requested, and when the minister speaks I should like him to tell the committee what are the latest developments so far as wildlife conservation is concerned, what meetings have lately taken place, and the situation generally with respect to Duck lake.

Some of the farming interests and primarily commercial interests in the area are anxious to drain this lake. This sheet of water was left as the result of a compromise between those concerned with agriculture and those concerned with the preservation of wildlife. It was believed the matter had been settled. Now there are those who would like to see this whole area drained. It was of great importance as a flyway for ducks, and I should like the minister to bring us up to date on this situation and tell us whether any further research has been undertaken in connection with this subject. I should like him also to tell the committee, if he can, the number of prosecutions in the last five years of persons who have violated the Migratory Birds Convention Act by either shooting or keeping egrets or by wearing hats or adornments made from egret feathers.

Finally I should like to support the remarks made by the hon. member who has just resumed his seat with respect to the need for preserving the whooping cranes. I notice that an article in the *Leader Press* of June 16, 1960 deals with this question and mentions that the Audubon society of Canada has expressed concern that the proposed Great Slave lake railway might disturb the only whooper nesting ground yet found in northern Canada. It advocates the selection of the more westerly of the two possible routes, and adds that under the migratory birds convention the United States could protest if