

essential to any policy for conserving our Canadian wild life. In regard to the first of these points, the government's policy in the administration of the legislation carrying out the Migratory Birds treaty is to rely on the provincial governments, so far as may be possible, for the enforcement of the provisions of the treaty within their respective territories. With this end in view most of the Provincial governments have already amended their game laws to conform with the provisions of the treaty. Where assistance is necessary to secure the adequate enforcement of the regulations, it is intended to furnish such assistance; and where it may be necessary for the Dominion Government to enforce the regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, owing to the failure of a Provincial government to do so, the Dominion Government will live up to its obligations under the treaty, which is by no means a 'scrap of paper', but the most far-reaching measure that has been yet put into operation for the preservation of our valuable bird life. A great responsibility rests upon the Dominion Government in this matter, inasmuch as it is solely responsible for the enforcement of the regulations in the Northwest Territories, which now constitute, perhaps, the chief breeding grounds of the greatest number of the migratory birds of this continent.

Revision of
Northwest
Game Act

It may not be out of place to discuss as briefly as possible the conservation of the game, fur-bearing animals and wild life of the Northwest Territories, on which subject I have addressed the Commission of Conservation at previous annual meetings. The Commission recommended the revision of the Northwest Game Act in 1916, and that revision was subsequently undertaken by the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection, a new Act being passed in 1917. The new Northwest Game Act, and the Regulations passed thereunder, have two main features: First, the needs of the wild life in the Northwest Territories are more adequately satisfied; and, second, the fur resources receive a greater degree of protection by the institution of a licensing system for trappers and traders, thus providing a safeguard against exploitation by unscrupulous individuals or companies. The Canadian people generally fail to realize, chiefly because they lack the information upon which to form an opinion or do not give the subject a thought, what an immense economic asset the wild life, and particularly the fur-bearing animals, of the Northwest Territories constitute. Reliable statistics of the fur production of these vast territories are unavailable, and, in passing, may I say that we hope that one of the results of this conference will be the development of a scheme for securing reliable