

*National Wild Life Day*

Following this war there will be a great increase in the numbers of hunters and fishermen. Millions of young men who have learned the thrill of outdoor living will join the ranks of those older sportsmen who are already devotees of the rugged life. Pressure on wild life resources will be terrific. The result will be the virtual exhaustion of our game, unless game management can solve the problems of providing annual crops of game animals, birds and fish in sufficient amount to satisfy the demands of this army of sportsmen.

That is the purpose of the bill, that all sorts of sportsmen's organizations should do in Canada as similar bodies do in the United States. At their dinners or banquets in the week of April 10, in Canada, they should have speakers who will tell their members, and through their members the public, of the great value of wild life conservation all along the line. If we do that we shall preserve for right use the wild life in Canada.

Perhaps I might quote another paragraph of the letter from the National Parks Association. I ought to have quoted this before. This has reference to the United States:

As you know, they have 178 water fowl refuges totalling 3,415,542 acres supported by the sale in 1945 of 1,750,352 one-dollar duck stamps to hunters and a few postage stamp collectors.

Since that time another 500,000 acres have been added to their wild fowl refuges. I do not know whether we have a tabulation of wild fowl refuges, but they now have 4,000,000 acres; and taking all their wild life, big game and wild fowl, they have altogether 13,600,000 acres. Speakers at various organizations should emphasize the necessity of Canada preserving some swamps and so forth. When the geese leave the Miner sanctuary I believe it takes them two days to get to the riding represented by the hon. member for Cochrane, and they go in thousands near the shores of James Bay, remaining there a week or ten days or more before flying to their nesting grounds in Baffin Land, Ungava and the Arctic islands. That is why I have referred to the hon. member for Cochrane as a conservationist. He is thoroughly familiar with the value of conservation.

I wish to say a word further with reference to Jack Miner. Among other titles, he had earned that of the great missionary of the air. He was the pioneer tagger of wild fowl. Others are now doing the same thing, and all credit to them, but he was the pioneer. That is the point I wish to emphasize above all others, and that is why so many honours have come to him. While I am on this point, let me give due credit to my right hon. friend, the Prime Minister, who alone must have conferred upon Jack Miner the O.B.E. of which he was so justly proud. I have never

[Mr. MacNicol.]

seen anyone in my life so thrilled at receiving a title as Jack was when he received the O.B.E., and I may tell the Prime Minister that if at any time he visits the sanctuary he will find above the big fireplace in the living room three pictures, one of Edison, one of Henry Ford and one of our Prime Minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The big three.

Mr. MacNICOL: He counted all three among his warmest friends and he respected each of them in the highest way. Jack Miner told me that it was in 1904 that he conceived the idea of wild life conservation. He had been a hunter in that part of Essex where, in those days, there was much wild life apart altogether from geese, because there were fur-bearing animals. He was an expert marksman and no one could beat him. When he pulled the trigger, whatever he fired at sank to rise no more. One of his ideas was that in the schools, or wherever the question of wild life was discussed, teachers should instruct sportsmen and children, if they ever became hunters, to make sure that when they fired they hit the animal in the right place, and if they were not sure about it, it would be better for them to go and retrieve any wounded bird or animal than to pass on and shoot ten more. He was altogether opposed to wanton destruction.

It took about five years, he told me, before he got together enough wild geese. I have forgotten how he obtained the first one, but I suppose it may be assumed that the first one was wounded and became a decoy. It was not killed but was made a decoy, and from that commencement in 1904, until 1909, he accumulated a considerable start in wild life conservation in the sanctuary. In that year he conceived the idea of banding them.

There are two types of bands. In the United States the band has a number on it, and I am familiar with it. It gives all the information necessary to enable biologists at Washington to keep a complete record of migratory wild life, their habits, where they go, when they return and so on. Jack Miner's band does the same thing. In fact, it was Jack Miner who went to Washington to show the United States department how he did it, and on various occasions that department sent its officials to Canada to watch him banding the birds so as to learn exactly what he did.

In 1909 he began putting Biblical verses on the bands. I have told this before but it will do no harm to repeat it now. When I was in northern Manitoba in Moose Lake, a few years ago, late one evening an Indian came in with a goose. There were no white