

Supply—Resources and Development

these countries in an effort to bring their regulations into line with what is mutually acceptable to our two countries.

Mr. Adamson: While this item on wildlife resources conservation deals to a degree with birds, I want to mention something which should be brought to the attention of the committee and of the minister particularly, namely, the question of predator control. The decimation of our wildlife, owing to predators, is something which cannot be allowed to continue for many years longer without serious destruction in the whole game picture in Canada.

In this connection I want to mention particularly the northern wolf and the grizzly bear. Today in our national parks, and in a vast area of northern British Columbia and northern Alberta, the northern wolf has attained such proportions not only in his ferocity but in numbers that the game resources—I speak of the deer, caribou, moose and to a certain extent even the elk—are in very great danger of such serious decrease as to be a menace to the whole economy of the area.

Not only does the wolf hunt in packs, but the depredations of the northern wolf have got so bad in comparatively recent years that the packs will co-operate with each other in order to destroy whole herds of game animals. The fiendish brutality of this animal is something which should be brought to the attention of the house and should be dealt with by this department. Not only will the northern wolf destroy animals for food, but they will hamstring those animals in order to keep them alive until such time as they are ready to eat them. So true is this that the southern limit of game animals in British Columbia and Alberta, and throughout the whole Rocky mountain range, is being driven north by this ferocious killer. With regard to the national parks I have one or two suggestions which I would ask the minister to consider seriously.

The Deputy Chairman: I understood the hon. member was referring to wildlife, but he is now referring to national parks. There is another item dealing with the national parks.

Mr. Adamson: I know; but wildlife does exist in the national parks, and the very next item in the estimates deals with those national parks. What I am saying refers to wildlife in the national parks, and in what I say I am combining the two items, and offering the suggestion that it is extremely germane to the item before the committee.

The position taken by the national parks administration is that every wild animal in

[Mr. Winters.]

the parks is a sacred cow. The wolf, and to an extent the grizzly bear, is by no means a sacred cow. Rare animals peculiar to the Rocky mountain range, including the Rocky mountain goat, bighorn sheep, deer and other animals, are being decimated by these killers. Recently the parks administration passed regulations preventing wardens from shooting or otherwise destroying these predators. Having in mind the damage which can be caused by these killers in reducing the number of unique animals which exist in our national parks, I feel that steps should be taken immediately to prevent an increase of this predatory force before it has reached proportions sufficiently great to drive north the unique and fine game animals that exist in the Rocky mountain range.

Years ago one could not go through the area of the Simpson pass without seeing excellent specimens of bighorn sheep, goats and other game animals. Today, owing to the depredations of the grizzly and the wolf, the herds of these animals are being decimated. I suggest two things: First of all my suggestion is that the wardens be allowed to shoot a wolf, or otherwise to get rid of the predators. The case against the grizzly perhaps is not so well proved as that against the wolf; but I do suggest that the regulations of the national parks administration should be amended so that the wardens may be allowed to shoot or otherwise to dispose of these predators.

There are other things I think should be done, but I shall not discuss national parks while we are dealing with the wildlife item. I should like to see it made an offence to shoot an eagle anywhere in Canada. Every time we hear about some individual who has shot an eagle we see that great publicity is given to him in the press, and it is considered that a most remarkable thing has been done. The eagle today is becoming almost an extinct bird. It is unique and magnificent, and its predatory instincts are of such minor importance that its adverse effect on game is almost negligible. Without question it is one of the really great birds of the Rocky mountain range, and I would hope that protection would be given to it.

The control of killers of our game, not only our game birds but our wild big game in Canada, is not only a great asset from the standpoint of our tourist business, but a great asset from the ethical point of view in our country. More destruction is caused to wildlife by protecting the predators than has ever been caused by even the greatest extent of hunting by man. I make that statement excepting always the history of destruction