

Britain and the United States for the protection of migratory birds in the United States and Canada. The draft of the proposed convention was submitted to the several provincial governments for their views, as the question was of provincial concern. The provincial governments unanimously approved of the principle of the convention. As objections that were not considered to be insuperable were raised by only two of the provinces, and, as the Departments of Agriculture and of the Interior, and the Commission of Conservation, strongly concurred in the opinion that the protection of these birds, as provided under the proposed convention, particularly on economic grounds, was most desirable, an Order-in-Council was passed on May 31st, 1915, stating that the Canadian Government was favourably disposed to the conclusion of the proposed Treaty. With a view to securing the settlement of our objections to certain provisions of the treaty further negotiations were undertaken in Washington early in the present year, as a result of which all the objections raised were completely met with the exception of one that would have affected the vital principle of the proposed treaty, namely, the elimination of spring shooting. Accordingly, a revised draft convention embodying the changes, together with certain other improvements, was prepared and submitted to the Canadian Government in March, 1916. After further consideration of this revised draft by the Government an Order-in-Council was passed on the 29th June, 1916, stating that "Canada is prepared to agree to the conclusion of the convention" conditional to the adoption of certain other amendments which had been agreed to as a result of informal negotiation.

The treaty was signed in Washington on 16th August, 1916, by His Majesty's Ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, G.C.V.O., and the Secretary of State of the United

States, Mr. Robert Lansing. On the unanimous vote of the Committee on Foreign Relations it was ratified by the Senate of the United States on 29th August, 1916.

Before giving the articles of the treaty it will be of interest to quote the words of the preamble:

"Whereas many species of birds in the course of their annual migrations traverse certain parts of the United States and the Dominion of Canada; and, whereas, many of these species are of great value as a source of food or in destroying insects which are injurious to forests and forage plants in the public domain, as well as to agricultural crops, in both the United States and Canada, but are nevertheless in danger of extermination through lack of adequate protection during the nesting season or while on their way to and from their breeding grounds;

"The United States of America and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British dominions beyond the seas, Emperor of India, being desirous of saving from indiscriminate slaughter and of insuring the preservation of such migratory birds as are either useful to man or are harmless, have resolved to adopt some uniform system of protection which shall effectively accomplish such objects. . . ."

The following are the articles of the treaty:

ARTICLE I

The High Contracting Powers declare that the migratory birds included in the terms of this convention shall be as follows:—

1. Migratory Game Birds:

- (a) Anatidæ or waterfowl, including brant, wild ducks, geese and swans.
- (b) Gruidæ or cranes, including little brown, sandhill, and whooping cranes.
- (c) Rallidæ or rails, including coots, gallinules and sora and other rails.
- (d) Limicolæ or shorebirds, including avocets, curlew, dowitchers, godwits, knots, oyster catchers, phalaropes, plovers, sandpipers, snipe, stilts, surf birds, turnstones, willet, woodcock, and yellowlegs.
- (e) Columbidæ or pigeons, including doves and wild pigeons.

2. Migratory Insectivorous Birds: Bobolinks, catbirds, chickadees, cuckoos, flickers, flycatchers, grosbeaks, humming birds, kinglets, martins, meadowlarks, night-hawks or bull bats, nut-hatches, orioles,