

*National Wild Life Day*

Whereas, the teaching of conservation in the schools of Ohio has been commended in a joint programme of the state department of education and the Ohio division of conservation.

And further down:

Now, therefore, I, John W. Bricker, governor of the state of Ohio, do hereby appoint and designate the week of April 12 to 16 as conservation week in the schools of Ohio and Friday, April 16, as arbour and bird day and ask a general observance by all citizens of the state of the entire month of April as conservation month.

I understand that the state of Michigan takes arbour day as the pivotal day in their wild life conservation week. I shall not take time to give details of what that state does, but it is along the lines of what I have just read. There is nothing new in a wild life day or a wild life week, because as far as I know it is general throughout the states of the United States. Therefore I feel the time has come when Canada should do the same.

The United States does not have an outstanding conservationist or wild life advocate like the late Jack Miner was, and it seems to me that April 10, which is the anniversary of the birthday of this great wild life conservationist and this great naturalist, would be a fitting day to include in a wild life week, or to be set aside as a wild life day as the bill provides. There are many days in Canada that are fairly generally observed. There is a day for tuberculosis; there is apple day which is the Boy Scout day and which is a national day throughout Canada; there is fire prevention week and so on. All of these are good, and to set aside April 10 as a wild life conservation day would be a new thing in Canada and would place us in the same position as the United States. The bill says a day, but it can be amended, to week of April 10.

During this period speeches could be delivered over the radio and all those interested could spread far and wide the benefits which would accrue to this country from conservation along almost any lines, and, in this particular case, wild life conservation.

It has been suggested to me that perhaps we would be interfering with the educational systems of the provinces. The provinces are supreme in educational matters and the federal government cannot interfere. I do not feel that there would be any interference because there would be no compulsion upon any provincial department of education to follow the provisions of this bill. I presume they would do just the same as is done in the various states in the United States. The departments of education in all the provinces are thoroughly alive to the great value of conservation in all

[Mr. MacNicol.]

lines, and, in this case, the conservation of wild life. I do not fear any difficulty in that regard, although it is not for me to say.

I was a very close friend of the late Jack Miner. I often visited his sanctuary, and it is a little difficult for me to speak because I think of his lovely blue eyes and his lovely face which showed by its lines his love, not only for wild life but for humanity. Quite often when I was there children would come, and I used to stand back and watch the faces of the kiddies when they looked at Jack Miner. He was an institution to them and busloads of children would come to see him. They would show him their bird houses and he would pat this one on the head and that one on the back. I can see their lovely eyes and their lovely countenances looking at his.

He was a great conservator; he devoted his whole life to conservation. The hon. members from Essex county know this quite well. The hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Croll), who previously represented an Essex constituency in the provincial house, the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) and the hon. member for Essex South (Mr. Clark) are all familiar with the work of this great pioneer, perhaps more so than other members in the house. I like to think of a pioneer being a man who blazes the way, who is not just a follower; a man who steps out and puts his name before the world. That is what Jack Miner did, and everything he did was done for Canada.

I have received many communications and I think I should refer to one or two. One was from the London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. I often heard Jack Miner say, "If I can teach a child to make an outdoor birdcage, I have made a conservator of wild life." That was a great thought; that was his life, as opposed to useless destruction. Wild life means so much to this country besides sport; it can contribute so much in the way of food, and its preservation is of the utmost importance. I also had a very warm letter from Colonel E. S. Wigle, one of the oldest residents and a member of one of the pioneer families in that part of Ontario. He warmly approves the bill.

I also had a letter from a leading departmental store in Windsor, the C. H. Smith departmental store. Although I am not familiar with the store itself, I understand it is a very large store. I believe the hon. member for Essex West (Mr. Brown) told me it was the largest store in Windsor. They are going to use their big show-windows, I am informed, to present to passers-by a demonstration of the value of wild life conservation. I think it is fine for a great merchant to use the show-