

I think all people across Canada owe Jack Miner a debt of gratitude for the manner in which he indicated to the people of Canada and of the world what bird sanctuaries could really do for wild life in our countries. When we look back over the years and realize that on this North American continent a century ago there were birds and beasts which are now extinct—and I have in mind particularly the migrating pigeon—we realize the importance of his work. Even before coming to this country I had read stories about the flocks of wild pigeons which flew down along the New England states to an extent that they obscured the sun. To-day there is not one specimen of the North American wild pigeon in existence. It is gone.

I look back to my own province of Saskatchewan and to the plains of western Canada. During my thirty-six years in the west I have seen that country almost depleted of the typical bird of the prairie land—the prairie chick. It almost disappeared. I remember the wanton slaughter of the prairie chick, and I remember, too, the slaughter of the ducks in the early days.

Slaughter, for the mere sake of slaughter, is, I believe, something which we should deprecate strongly and, where possible, punish effectively, because, as the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McIvor) said a minute ago, any man who kills for the joy of killing is really not a good citizen of any country, anywhere. So that I am pleased to rise in my place in support of this bill.

I had the privilege some fifteen or sixteen years ago of spending a few days in Leamington, Ontario, which is in Essex county. When I was there I visited the bird sanctuary of Jack Miner with my, as they were then, young children. I remember how much interested they were in what Mr. Miner was doing. It was an education and inspiration to them.

It may be said that we have a number of days set aside now for various purposes and that perhaps we have a sufficiency of them. I happen to be a Protestant in religion and I belong to a church which commemorates some of the saints' days. I think of the lessons that those days bring back when one sees them recorded either on a calendar or in a prayer book. I think it is useful for boys and girls who are growing up, and for the older generation too, to remember exactly what some lives have meant to the world in which we are living to-day.

In the same way Jack Miner has given something to this country, to this continent and, indeed, to the world, because Jack Miner's birds have been found in every part of the world

from time to time. I remember reading a few years ago how one of the birds he had banded had been picked up in Australia, another one in Africa, and so on. Each one was banded in Canada and carried the message of Canada across the world, giving, as it were, a challenge to other countries and other peoples to do what we were doing, to try to preserve wild life which is so beneficial to the human race.

I remember years ago reading a story about how a certain district—I have even forgotten where it was—seemed to be plagued with birds. The birds were killed, but when the birds were gone the insects came. Then the people who had killed the birds looked around to find other birds to kill the insects that were plaguing the vegetation in the neighbourhood. The birds and other specimens of wild life which we should preserve in this country are useful to the community and to society.

In spite of all that may be said about having too many days to commemorate this or that, I think this is a day that might be set aside. The hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) does not intend it to be a holiday; it is intended as a day when through the press, the radio and, as the hon. member for Fort William has suggested, through the Boy Scouts organizations and other organizations of that kind, the life and work of this great citizen of Canada may be commemorated for generations.

I am glad to see that the government is placing in the estimates something a little more tangible than this bill indicates. I should like to see this amount made substantial enough that the work could be carried on or even expanded across Canada. In every province and region of this country we should have a preserve for wild life. I know there are others who wish to speak to-night, so that I shall close by saying again that I support this bill.

Hon. PAUL MARTIN (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the house will expect that as one of the three members from Essex county I should join with the hon. member for Essex West (Mr. Brown) and the hon. member for Essex South (Mr. Clark) in the tributes that have been paid to a great citizen of Canada and a citizen of the county of Essex. Jack Miner was not only a great Canadian, he was one of those Canadians who became a citizen of the world. Because of his great love of bird life and wild life his name was perhaps known better in most countries of the world than almost any other Canadian. Few Canadians, apart from men like the Prime Minister (Mr.