

persuade the minister who sits beside him (Mr. Dunning) to set aside more money for the enforcement of the treaty.

Mr. TOLMIE: The statement of the last speaker to the effect that August 15 is the opening day for duck shooting in the Yukon is an indication that a variety of dates should be set to suit different districts. The brant is one of our best game birds on the Pacific coast. Sportsmen out there would like to have the season open on January 1, if possible, and particularly would like to have February an open month. The brant, a small variety of goose, is not found inland, but is found on the eastern and western coasts. The people interested in the brant would like to have the dates set from January 1 to March 1, and would like to have the dates for ducks set at November 15 to January 31.

May I point out further that the birds are bred in Canada, in very much the same manner as are the sockeye salmon with which the hon. member for Comox-Alberni is so familiar. They travel down into the United States and to a great extent are shot there. I believe we ought always to see to it that we get our reasonable share of game birds.

Mr. KINLEY: With regard to the migratory birds treaty and the protection of game birds may I say that the impression on the Atlantic coast is that the duck season is too early. In September the birds are covered with pin feathers, and are not as satisfactory for food as they would be later. Our fishermen would like to have the season extended. I have discussed the matter with departmental officials, and I believe they agree that it should be later. It is my expectation that in the near future the season will be somewhat later.

There are two elements interested in game birds, namely sportsmen and fishermen. The sportsmen are interested for purposes of sport, and the fishermen use the birds for food. It is my view that the interests of the fishermen on the Atlantic coast should have first consideration, because these birds form an important part of their food. If they can hunt ducks at Christmas time rather than earlier, they are of more value to them.

In the last year or two we in Nova Scotia have been disturbed by the mounted police using decoys who would circulate among the fishermen. When a fisherman would shoot a duck for food, possibly not being aware that the season was closed, or possibly a day before it opened, the stool pigeon would lay for him, report to the police, and bring him into court and have a heavy fine imposed. A fine of that kind destroys a fisherman,

[Mrs. Black.]

absolutely, because he cannot pay it and must go to gaol. He may have a family at home for whom he is attempting to get food, but if he shoots a duck he finds himself in trouble.

I believe in the enforcement of the law and I believe, too, that fishermen are anxious to obey it; but we are told that the letter of the law killeth and the spirit giveth life. However, when there are stool pigeons in addition to the police along our coast laying for fishermen, and being paid for it, it seems to me the enforcement is too drastic.

Mr. HOWDEN: I should like to supplement the remarks of the last speaker (Mr. Kinley) with regard to the duck shooting season. I do not know anything about duck shooting in Nova Scotia, but I know in Manitoba our season opens on September 20. At this time the birds are still covered with pin feathers, and many are not fully grown. If the season were moved back fifteen days I think it would do a lot towards the conservation of the ducks, as well as bringing the ducks to the bag in much better shape.

The prairie chicken is not a migratory bird but I think it is the best game bird in Canada, if not in north America. On several occasions it has been necessary to have closed seasons in Manitoba for a number of years. Perhaps this matter does not come under the vote for the committee, but I think it is worth while being mentioned. Because of the poverty of the province during the last several years, they have not been able to keep on a sufficient number of game wardens to protect the game. I can realize that a farmer might feel it his privilege to kill a few birds out of season, and probably it is; but it is an entirely different thing when hunting parties leave the city of Winnipeg during the out of season period. Hundreds of birds are destroyed before they are grown, and it seems to me that something ought to be done. I have been a hunter for many years, and I would rather never shoot another prairie chicken than see them become extinct. They are a wonderful bird, but under present conditions they are in serious danger of being killed off and completely destroyed in our part of the country.

Mr. BENNETT: That is regulated by the provinces.

Mr. HOWDEN: I understand that is the business of the province, but it does not seem that the province of Manitoba is able to keep on enough game wardens to protect the game. Perhaps the federal government will come to our assistance.

Mr. POTTIER: Up to last year the season in western Nova Scotia extended from October