

This broader conception of the significance of our wild life and of our attitude towards it has, in turn, brought about a greater sense of our responsibility with regard to the future, and a realization of the fact that the conservation of wild life is not a matter which any one province, state or territory can undertake alone, but that its successful prosecution demands neighbourly co-operation and mutual assistance. The extent of our success in protecting our wild life will depend upon the degree of our co-operation.

In every sphere of activity the spirit of co-operation is growing; in industrial labour, agricultural production or international conduct, co-operation is replacing separate effort. Similarly, in conserving our wild life we are appreciating the necessity of co-operation. So long as our migratory birds were subject to excessive destruction during their winter sojourn in the south and their spring migration northward, our effort to protect them in their breeding grounds was likely to prove unsuccessful altruism; the conservation of these birds demanded international action, and now we are endeavouring by mutual co-operation to protect them. This conference will afford an opportunity of discussing the means whereby we may co-operate in this problem to the best advantage.

Indeed, there are few phases of wild life conservation which cannot be promoted with a much greater degree of success by mutual co-operation between governments than by individual effort. In the regulation of the fur trade, which we propose to discuss, the enforcement of the best laws that a government can devise may be seriously hampered by the limitations that provincial or national boundaries place upon the jurisdiction of such governments. The same difficulty is met where contiguous governments have different policies; for example, where a provincial government, such as that of Saskatchewan or New Brunswick, prohibits the sale of game, and an adjacent province permits it; the absence of uniformity in policy leads to infractions of the law and trouble in enforcing it. While it is too much to expect uniformity in all cases, it cannot be denied that a much greater degree of co-operation than exists at present can be secured, and we believe that the best mode of obtaining such co-operation is by such a conference as this.

The migratory tendencies of most forms of wild life annul the effect of provincial or national boundaries, and the results may be for good or for evil; a territory carrying on a wise protective policy with regard to its game or fur-bearing animals will bring about an overflow into the more depleted

Predatory
Animals