

March 21

Fish, Game Commission Refused by Minister

No commission to administer Ontario's fish and game resources will be appointed as long as the present Government is in power. This was the blunt reply of Fish and Game Minister G. A. Dunbar to a movement sponsored by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, representing 50,000 sportsmen, in a stormy session of the Legislature's Fish and Game Committee yesterday.

For the second time in two days Mr. Dunbar criticized the federation's recommendation that the commission be appointed, and declared all other matters dealt with in a brief presented by the organization were being carried out by the department.

"There will be no commission," he said. "I am speaking for the Government when I tell you that. You do not represent 50,000 sportsmen in Ontario; you do not represent the views of Northern Ontario. Why, the day after the election I got a copy of a letter written by one of your members to a person in Toronto declaring he was going to be the head of the commission and claiming he had the promise of some person on our side of the House that he would get the job. Would that make it a non-political commission?"

"There is a certain group which is trying to take over the department. They didn't want it when it was non-revenue producing, but now it is making money. I'm speaking for the Government and can assure you there will be no commission," he declared heatedly.

Clash Is Heated

Vic Sutton, Windsor, vice-president of the federation, exhibited wires from Northern Ontario centres endorsing the commission plan, and said: "If the Government says there will be no commission it smacks of dictatorship, and we want no part of it."

Mr. Dunbar interrupted Sutton several times and the latter said: "I listened to you, Mr. Dunbar, and now you listen to me. Yesterday you said you were not speaking for the Government, now you say you are."

"I'm speaking for the Government," the Minister shouted. "Do you think I would make a statement like this if I hadn't consulted the Government?"

Dr. Arthur James, Toronto, declared the department had been handicapped by not having enough money to spend because it was "thwarted by non-revenue producing departments." He urged biological studies of lakes before fish were placed in them, and then referred to the commission discussion with: "We have no quarrel with Dunbar or Taylor but with an antiquated system. Taylor could do a good job if you gave him money with which to do it."

An old bush legend went by the board when a bounty was sought on porcupines. Mr. Taylor pointed out that, contrary to popular opinion, the "porcky" isn't protected by law, and E. L. Hughes, North Bay, declared hunters had protected porcupines because the animal is the only one in the bush which could easily be killed by a starving man. Actually, the porcky is a destructive creature and a nuisance to camp operators.

Ask Bounty Increase

Kendall Hanson, Nestor Falls, asked that crows be decreased; an increase in spring bear hunters or a bounty on bear and declared wolves were a serious problem in the Lake of the Woods area. Because of high prices for other fur, trappers will not bother with wolves, he said.

This was endorsed by Henry Heineman, Pittsburg, president of the Northern Ontario Outfitters' Association, who urged an increased bounty on wolves since "one wolf can kill 50 to 100 deer in a year, and that's the only way we'll get rid of them."

"We paid out \$52,000 last year. That's pretty good, isn't it?" asked Mr. Dunbar. "The appropriation used to be \$5,000."

Lengthy applause followed a brief address by J. J. Girling, Hamilton, when he first brought up the commission resolution, and it was some time before Mr. Dunbar could reply to it. "Is the applause for me, or for the fellow who has just spoken?" asked Mr. Dunbar. "For the fellow who has spoken," some one called.

Numerous recommendations came from the Northern group, including one asking restrictions on amphibious aircraft which could possibly enter the Province, pay no licenses and fly out with game. It also urged operators of such planes be required to be registered with a

licensed outfitter. Zoning to prevent overcrowding of resort areas; rigid enforcing of timber cutting laws; investigation of guides before their licenses are issued, and a request the Government assume transportation ferry service between Tobermory and the Manitoulin Island were also presented.

The Ontario Federation asked no season on grouse be opened; sale of cottontail rabbits be prohibited in Brant County, and it be declared illegal to hunt ducks in territories where there are pheasants during the open season for the latter.