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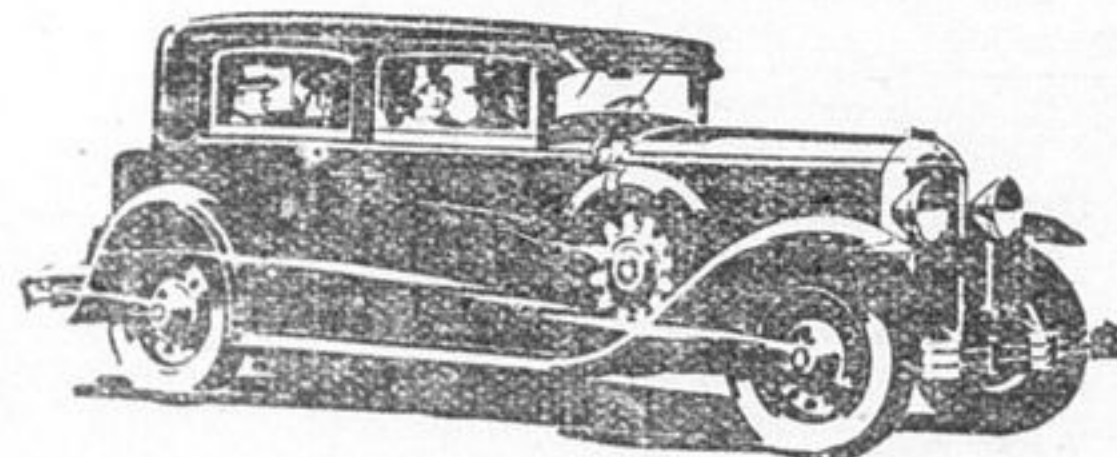
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Necessity for Change in the Migratory Bird Agreement

Hunter Should do all Possible to Help Conserve the Migratory Birds. Some Open Seasons Work Injustice. Jack Miner, the Noted Canadian Nature Lover Writes on the Treaty Between Canada and the United States Regarding Migratory Birds.

Jack Miner, of Kingsville, Ont., noted as a nature lover, and famous as a conservationist, this week sent The Advance the following letter for publication:—

Ever since 1916, when the Migratory Bird Treaty between Canada and the United States was enacted, the people of the Continent knowing I was wholeheartedly in favour of it, have been continually sending me letters asking questions regarding my views on the matter. I wish to make the following statement for the press regarding it.

The migratory birds of this Continent know no boundary line; they breed in Northern Canada and winter in Southern United States. Therefore I say, we people, especially we hunters and conservationists, should know no boundary line in affording protection, and not allowing them to be ruthlessly slaughtered. That is the great aim of the treaty, so that both countries arbitrate laws to govern the killing of birds.

For instance, take our wild native Whistling Swan, which in 1916 were nearly exterminated and were fast becoming extinct. Some officials estimated in 1916, when the swan were seen in their winter quarters that there were less than 1,000. To-day it is estimated there are 25,000 on the Continent. The treaty gave these birds absolute protection. How foolish it would have been in this case for Canada to have prohibited the shooting and the United States allowed them to be shot, or vice versa, but the treaty arbitrated laws giving them absolute protection.

Another important thing the Treaty did was to stop market hunting, which I think all of us true sportsmen feel is absolutely right. Why should anyone be allowed to slaughter and exterminate game which belongs to all of us? Or in other words, why should anyone be allowed to commercialize game? One systematic market hunter would kill as many birds as perhaps hundreds of sportsmen. Before the Treaty it would have been unwise for any one State or Province to have prohibited market hunting, when any neighbouring State or Province was allowing it. The Migratory Treaty came along and gave us all equal rights in both Canada and the United States, and wisely stopped the market hunting in both countries.

The wisest thing in my estimation, that the treaty did was to prohibit the spring shooting of these birds and practically the only little complaint I have ever heard regarding the treaty was that it prohibited spring shooting. First of all in the spring birds paired off, the nesting season starts, and eggs are developing, and if there is ever any sane time to prohibit shooting it should be at this season of year. How many of us human beings kill off our hens in the spring of the year when they are nesting, or getting ready to nest? How many of us kill off our turkeys, tame ducks and tame geese in the spring of the year when they are nesting? Such being the case it certainly applies to our wild migratory fowl. Ontario was practically the first Province to prohibit spring shooting some thirty-eight or forty years ago, thus it naturally made Canadians glad to see the Migratory Bird Treaty prohibit spring shooting all over Canada and the United States; because, how foolish it was for one State or Pro-

vince to enforce such a law when birds know no boundary line between State, Province or Country. Thus I say the Migratory Bird Treaty wisely prohibited the spring shooting in both countries.

To those parts of Canada that do not have good fall shooting, and complain of birds piling up in the South, let me say, establish a sanctuary and you will find these birds will congregate at your sanctuary for food and protection in the spring of the year, and in fall will return with their families to your sanctuary. This system will give the ninety per cent. of bird lovers who like to see birds alive, first chance to see them in sanctuary, and will increase the hunters' chances around outside of sanctuary a hundred fold. For illustration, here in Essex County when I used to do considerable shooting I never saw a wild goose on the ground in the fall until 1915. And what happened? My sanctuary was well established and birds were coming in spring and they started to come back in the fall, and the results are that I doubt if any County in Canada has had better fall goose shooting through the fact that this sanctuary is here and no shooting is allowed within one mile of its borders. Thus I say to you people who do not have any birds in the fall, establish a sanctuary and feed birds in spring and they will return to your country in the fall.

The Migratory Bird Treaty is a Federal Act and not only a Federal Act, but a treaty between two countries therefore the Provinces have no jurisdiction over it. This is rightly so because birds do not belong to any one state or province, or even to one country, they belong to the people of Canada and United States. Therefore, they are federal property, and only federal property can rightly and justly be governed by federal laws. Hence it is up to the law abiding citizens of both countries and provincial authorities to co-operate fully with the Department of the Interior at Ottawa, that has control over Migratory Treaty in Canada, and help to see that the Treaty is enforced, and offer suggestions to which, I am sure, they will gladly give whole hearted consideration.

At the present time the Treaty allows any state or province three and a half months open season which is unjust to the Canadian sportsman and the sportsmen of Northern United States. My tagging system has proven that ducks and geese are in the Southern States only three or four months of the year, and three and a half of these months are open season, which is wrong.

We only allow ten or fifteen days open season on upland game such as quail, pheasants, partridge, prairie chickens, grouse, moose and deer, so why should we allow a three and a half months' open season on migratory waterfowl? My friendly suggestion to the Department of Interior, Ottawa, and to the Biological Survey, Washington, which bodies have full control of enforcing the Treaty, is to reduce the open season on migratory waterfowl to two months or less and have a uniform bag limit of fifteen duck per day, and thirty in possession. How can any man be considerate of the other fellows' North American rights and privileges and want more? JACK MINER

BIG CONSTRUCTION BOOM EXPECTED NOW IN SUDBURY

New Customs Copper Refinery Means Big Thing. First Hundred Men to Start Work Arrived on Monday.

The Sudbury Star last week says: "The first movement in the invasion of Sudbury District by labour connected with the building of the new customs copper refinery will take place Monday when 100 men will arrive to commence operations on the site at Copper Cliff. Preliminary soundings for bed rock were made this week on ground reserved for refinery purposes by the International Nickel Company and recently turned over to the Ontario Refining Company. The site is directly south of the Canadian Pacific depot and is within a few hundred feet of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In all about 45 acres will be required for the plant, yards and offices of the refinery company."

"While the preliminary operations in connection with the new refinery will consist mainly in excavating for the foundations, progress is expected to be rapid and an additional 200 or 300 men may be added to the working force before the end of the month. Further additions will be made at intervals during the summer, until it is expected, at the height of construction activity, between 700 and 1,000 men will be employed. Fraser, Brace and Company are the general contractors. The cost of the plant including installations has been announced as approximately \$4,000,000."

"While owned jointly between the International Nickel, American Metal and Consolidated Smelters, the building, direction and operation of the new refinery will be in the hands of an entirely separate organization representing the Ontario Refining Company. Designs and technical work in connection with the refinery have been prepared by experts of the American Metal Company."

"Further light was shed on the question of the extent of Ventures' participation in the refinery enterprise when it was learned from a high official of Ventures, Limited, that Ventures had been invited by Consolidated Smelters to participate in the undertaking on equal terms with themselves. Misunderstanding in the matter has been caused apparently by the fact that the arrangement is a private one between Ventures and Consolidated Smelters and so far as the other two participants are concerned Ventures, Limited, did not appear in the negotiations."

COCHRANE BOARD OF TRADE WANTS RAILWAY COMPLETED

The matter of the completion of the T. & N. O. Railway north to James Bay was one of the subjects before the last meeting of the Cochrane board of trade. The members present were agreed that the crucial time had arrived and that a final appeal should be made at once to Premier Ferguson to have the line continued to tidewater. The proposed railways in Quebec and Manitoba were referred to and it was generally felt that delay in building the T. & N. O. was prejudicial to Ontario's interests so far as James Bay and Hudson Bay territory is concerned. Cochrane board of trade also passed a resolution urging the Government to follow the suggestion of the grand jury recently in Cochrane in regard to the erection of a jail building. It was felt that the expense entailed in having to send prisoners to and from Halleybury was becoming too great and that the time was coming when the District Court building should be completed by the addition of a gaol structure.

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BOOM AT SUDBURY GIVES RISE TO DIFFICULTIES

During the past few weeks there has been a boom at Sudbury and people have been flocking there from all quarters. This gave rise to a shortage of accommodation in the way of houses and rooms. A survey was made and as a result accommodation has been assured for 500 newcomers for Sudbury. There are single rooms for 230 men, and further accommodation available for room and board for 270 more, all in private families. This, of course, is in addition to the regular hotel, boarding house and rooming house accommodation of the town.

The report that a large number of men were required by the International Nickel Co. for new work at Sudbury has naturally resulted in a large influx of men into the Sudbury camp. It is reported that all the men thus going in have not been able to secure employment. Of course, this will not be emphasized by Sudbury interests as it is usually desired to have a surplus of labour rather than any shortage. Any boom usually means many difficulties of one kind or another. One of the difficulties reported from Sudbury is the high rates being asked by some landlords and landladies. These high rates press particularly hard on the newcomers who have gone to Sudbury in the hopes of securing immediate employment and whose finances are limited. The Sudbury Star suggests that the landladies are more grasping than the landlords. "A few months ago when I was in Sudbury," one man told The Sudbury Star, "I was offered a room for two dollars a week. A couple of days ago I went back and the landlady wanted \$7 a week for the same room. Believe me, I turned it down and went to a hotel." Others who have had similar experiences have done likewise.

NORTH BAY HOCKEY PLAYER HAS EYE BADLY INJURED

While engaged in loading an ice car at the T. & N. O. Railway yards at North Bay last Saturday, Leslie Saunders, well-known North Bay athlete and member of the North Bay Trawlers hockey team last season, accidentally struck his face against an ice hook, injuring his eye quite badly, the lid of his left eye being severely lacerated. At first it was feared that it would be impossible to save the sight of the eye, but it is now hoped that surgical and medical skill will be able to avoid the necessity for the removal of the eye. The injured young man was taken to the North Bay hospital where he is under the care of Dr. McMurchy. It is hoped to save the sight of the eye and to assure recovery at an early date without serious consequences.

FIRST AUTO MAKING TRIP FROM COBALT TO NORTH BAY

A despatch last week from Cobalt says:—"To A. E. Lamb, former garage owner here, and now living in North Bay, belongs the distinction of driving the first car over the Ferguson Highway between Cobalt and North Bay this year. He came up this week from the city, taking six hours to make the trip, and he reported that the road was in poor shape in places. Mr. Lamb continued on to Kirkland Lake after staying here overnight. The roads north are in fair condition, it is stated, but the frost is not all out of the ground yet."

It may be noted in passing that early in April a car went down from the Porcupine and with the aid of several tows managed eventually to get through. Last week The Advance mentioned a successful auto trip from Toronto to Timmings.

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