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Resolution 1925-01-04 Reduction of Duty on Imported Game Birds

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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PROCEEDINGS
of the
NINETEENTH CONVENTION
of the
International Association
OF
Game, Fish and
Conservation
Commissioners

BROWN PALACE HOTEL
DENVER, COLORADO
AUGUST 20 and 21, 1925





E. LEE LE COMPTE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
PRESIDENT 1925-'26

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AND CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS

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Next Convention, Mobile, Ala., September 20 and 21, 1926

NINETEENTH CONVENTION

1925

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not break faith. I have never broken faith with one man on this earth. It is untrue. A man cannot break faith with a man when he cannot think that thought first in his mind. I never thought that thought.

The thing I got in those two days at Washington, the thing that was soaked into me was that you had to go to Washington with a new marsh lands bill if you wanted to get them to pass it. Now I will promise you it will be beaten again. I know it will if it is again up.

I will say another thing. I may not live long. I do not think I am going to; that is my honest belief. I am in a rotten physical condition. If you pass the Public Shooting Grounds Bill in Washington, your chickens will come home to roost and you will injure the cause of conservation, because there is no such a thing so bad as a false prophet, as a false promiser, and the promise is impossible. In your state (addressing Mr. Gordon of Pennsylvania) do you allow shooting on your refuges?

Mr. Gordon: Not on the refuges, but on the surrounding grounds.

Mr. Dilg: No, they do not allow it on the refuges. If they did, every one of them would be gutted between daylight and dark, wouldn't they?

Mr. Gordon: Oh, they would hunt on the refuge territory, but now they hunt around it.

Mr. Dilg: That is what I say you should do. I do not hunt; my hunting days are over—I fish only. But I tell you if you put the public shooting grounds here—it is a beautiful dream; it reads well but you cannot deliver the goods, and why not give them something you can deliver? I am not for the rich duck clubs. This is a people's league, not a rich man's league, and I say to you gentlemen, you cannot get this over, so why try to do it? I thank you.

President Harkin: I will call on the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee to present his report.

Report of Resolutions Committee

Dr. Gilbert Pearson: As Chairman of the Resolutions Committee I desire to present three resolutions which meet with our approval. The first one I take a great deal of pleasure in presenting because I hope it will assist in rectifying a bad condition in this country for which the speaker admits he is in a sense responsible. I went before the last session of Congress when the Tariff Act was drawn, before the Ways and Means Committee, and presented to them a problem which they had never considered, or, apparently, thought of, in connection with the placing of an import duty on birds coming into this country. I stated very clearly and distinctly that this was not a tariff on game birds brought in for propagation. However, the committee in its wisdom sought to place a tariff also on game birds, which meant that a very considerable duty had to be paid on quail, for instance, brought from across the Mexican border to stock the depleted covers in this country. Objection has been offered; the Tariff Commission are now considering the matter and it is thought that a resolution from this representative organization would have much effect with the committee. It follows:

RESOLVED, That this Association recommend to the United States Tariff Commission, through its Secretary, that the present

duty on imported game birds be reduced fifty per cent, and that a representative of this Association be present at the hearing before the Tariff Commission in Washington, D. C., on September 10th, 1925, at 10 A. M., in support of this resolution.

Mr. Adams: I move the adoption of the resolution.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Dr. Pearson: The next resolution is as follows:

In view of the great economic and spiritual value of song and insectivorous birds to mankind, this Association urges game wardens and commissioners throughout the United States and Canada to devote careful attention to the subject of protecting this class of wild birds to co-operate with such national and state citizens' organizations as may exist for the education of the public on the value of such birds to the country.

On motion of Mr. Burnham, seconded by Dr. Waggoner, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Dr. Pearson: With regard to the Game Refuge Bill, various ideas have been expressed by different men as to the feasibility and as to the wisdom of its various provisions. As is well known here, there has been considerable discussion throughout the country in that connection, especially here in the Northwest, where Mr. Madsen has prepared a special bill which has been brought to your attention. In order to get anything in Washington we must present a united front; we all believe in that. This organization, fortunately, has had a very level-headed and far-seeing president, a gentleman who comes from a neighboring country. This is particularly a domestic problem here, but when he arrived and found that there was more or less sheet-lightning playing around the horizon on this subject, he proceeded to call together officers of this Western Association and the International Association and a few others, with an idea of threshing this thing out and of having all the cards laid on the table. His idea was that we might find out to our satisfaction whether those of opposite views had horns on or not, or whether we were all regular fellows and sincere. These men met for a few hours in a room in the hotel here the other night and prepared a brief statement, as follows:

Denver, Col.
August 19, 1925.

Officers of the Western Association of State Game Commissioners and of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in conference here tonight approve amendments to the Game Refuge Bill offered by Commissioner D. H. Madsen, of Utah, providing for a state representative on the Federal Board to be in charge of the purchase of lands for game refuges, and for raising the funds by the transfer of the existing excise tax on firearms and ammunition in place of the proposed Federal hunting license. They urge the American Game Protective Association to sponsor the amended bill in Congress. Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, expressed his approval of the proposed amendments and those present urge the Izaak Walton League and other organizations and individuals interested, to give the movement their support.

This is what was passed the other night unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the action of the officers of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in con-