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Resolution 1919-01-13 Education and Outreach About the Value of Birds and Wildlife

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
**International Association of
Game, Fish and
Conservation
Commissioners**

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, U. S. A.

OCTOBER 6 AND 7, 1919

SYNDICATE PRINTING CO.
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AND CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS.**

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Next convention to be held at Ottawa, Canada, September 23-24, 1920.

Eleventh Convention
of the
International Association of Game,
Fish and Conservation Commissioners

in session at

Louisville, Ky., October 6-7, 1919.

Convention called to order at 10:00 A. M., October 6, 1919, in the Red Room at the Hotel Seelbach, Louisville, Ky., by J. Quincy Ward, president, who said:

Members of the convention I am delighted with the representation I see before me. I am advised that owing to reconstruction difficulties caused by the war, it is impossible for all the members to be with us in person, however, they are with us in spirit. I have the pleasure of introducing the Hon. Weissinger Smith, mayor of the city of Louisville, who will address you in welcome to this city:

Mayor Smith: Mr. Chairman, members of this convention, and my neighbors, you do not know how delighted I am to be here this morning. I feel kind of like I wanted you to welcome me, rather than me to welcome you. If you really appreciate what the mayors of the various cities throughout this country have had to go through since this war appeared, I know that you have sympathy for us. I want to say that you really don't know how difficult it has been, with myself and all other mayors throughout the country, to stand upon platforms talking to people, to welcome them, oftentimes sitting there with tears in their eyes because their boys, your boys were over there and we did not know whether we would ever again see them, whether they would ever come back! But, as we are getting back to normal times, you do not know how glad I am this morning to stand before such a body of men, men who live outdoors and know how to put a gun to their shoulder and cast a line into the stream and if it were proper I would love to tell you some of my own experiences. I was in the Canadian woods six years ago, my first time in the bush. I was there six weeks and saw my first birch bark canoe. I love to recall those times. I love to recall the time I first saw the Indians come to a portage and I tried to help them carry the canoe, and how I shot a bear, but the sad part about it is that the boys played a joke on me; it was a stuffed bear, but nevertheless I hit him. A few days later I actually saw a live bear and had a shot at him with my Mauser. I love to talk about these things to you and would like to tell you about those Canadian partridges. I would love to go into all these things for I have had the heart of a sportsman ever since I was a boy. My father was a true sportsman. He told me once that no true sportsman should ever shoot a covey of quail on the

and I would like to see come out of it some decision as to what we are going to do but it seems to me that we are threshing out today things that will have to be done over again a year from now; it seems to me that instead of doing that we should get busy, that this committee should get busy and ascertain just what marsh and swamp lands you have in the states where these different members of the committee are located, whether they can be secured and the cost and then we can go out and see if we can raise the money, or if the land is to be paid for by the federal government or by the states we can have enacted the necessary legislation to have these lands acquired.

Mr. Avery: It is interesting to know, gentlemen, what progress is being made in the various states. I believe that in South Dakota they passed a law recently invoking the right of eminent domain to purchase shooting grounds for the benefit of the public. Now, I am not familiar with that law but as Commissioner Hedrick is present perhaps you would like to hear from him in regard to it.

I know the difficulties we have been up against in Minnesota; practically all of the passes are owned by clubs, shooting clubs, the members of which are gentlemen who have means enough to maintain them. There are a great many shooting preserves owned or leased by clubs in Minnesota of more or less value and they will have more value; most of the shore line of some lakes is controlled by clubs and the public has no opportunity to have any shooting as it would like to have. Sometime ago it was proposed in our state that there be placed in the laws of the state an act permitting the Game and Fish Commissioner to purchase places of this sort to be held for the use of the general public. This proposition was published in the newspapers and immediately there was a storm of protest from the clubs holding shooting privileges throughout the state and the matter got no further; was never even introduced in the form of a bill to the legislature. It was not proposed to interfere with any of the clubs now established but to acquire passes still available for the permanent use of the public under proper regulations. Granted the right of eminent domain, such action could be taken. I believe we have got to face this question in just that way. Just as Mr. Howser outlined, there should be places for the common man to hunt as well as for the man who can pay for his privileges. We have a game refuge on the Minnesota river, nine miles in extent, which is literally covered with ducks during the season; there are millions of them there. A number of shooting clubs have their grounds both above and below this game refuge, where they have excellent shooting, but there is little room for the general public. The clubs are the beneficiaries and the public is neglected, but if we do away with the game refuge the shooting is lost, not only for the clubs but for the general public as well. If we can bring about legislation by which the general public will be taken care of it will be one of the best things ever done.

NIGHT SESSION, OCTOBER 7, 1919.

The convention was called to order by the president, Mr. Ward.

The next paper is by Mr. D. H. Selden, of Richmond, Va., on quail breeding.

Mr. Selden: This is a side line with me; I have made a study of it for the past fifteen years; started with two hens and 27 eggs; one got 14 hatched out. The next year I got 45 out of 58 eggs and the next year with eight cocks in the pen, not that I desired to keep that many in the pen, but had to do it on account of congestion for room, I got 156 eggs and hatched out 143 and raised and liberated 122. Before liberating I take my birds

Report of the secretary and president relative to efforts to secure reduction in rates for transportation of fish cars, discussions of these reports and appointment of a committee to continue efforts in this direction with the United States railroad administration are omitted for the reason that the roads have since been returned to private control and the matter of rates will be handled direct by the several states in dealing with the railroad companies.

The auditing committee reported having audited the books of the treasurer and found them correct, the report was accepted.

The committee on time and place made no report but was authorized to confer with a like committee of the American Fisheries Society and to make its report to the president. The committee later recommended that the next meeting be held at Ottawa, Canada, on Thursday and Friday, September 23 and 24, 1920.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following report of the resolutions committee was adopted:

Resolved, That the publicity committee of this association be, and they are hereby, directed to inaugurate, as soon as possible a nation-wide campaign throughout the American continent for the purpose of educating the people relative to the economic and recreational value of birds, game and fish, their relation to the comfort, the happiness and the prosperity of man, and the necessity for the preservation of this great natural resource.

Resolved, That the Bureau of Biological Survey be, and is hereby, requested to grant permits to protect the fish resources of the country from destruction by the bittern, blue heron and night heron.

Resolved, That the thanks of the members of this association be, and they are hereby, extended to the citizens of Kentucky and especially of Louisville and particularly to the members of the Kentucky Game and Fish Commission for the cordial welcome we have received and for the splendid hospitality which has been so graciously dispensed to us during this convention.

Resolved, That the members of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners deeply deplore the illness of his excellency, the Hon. Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, and we most earnestly hope that he may be speedily restored to vigorous health and active duty; and

Resolved further, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the private secretary of the president, the Hon. Joseph P. Tumulty.

Resolved, That the members of this convention hereby pledge themselves to use every influence possible toward stimulation of a nation-wide movement looking to the construction of fish ponds upon farms in which desirable species of game and food fishes, especially the basses and the sunfishes, can be propagated for recreation and for food, at a comparatively small expense when contrasted with the vast benefits which will result therefrom.

Whereas, The great service rendered through the department of agriculture, Bureau of Biological Survey, in the enforcement of the migratory bird treaty act, is, and has been of inestimable value to the nation; and

Whereas, The sum of money now appropriated by congress is obviously inadequate to give the police protection needed in each state; therefore, be it.