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Resolution 1924-06-06 Resolution of Thanks

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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and much needed work; and, further, that the proper department in the government of Canada should carry on similar studies and investigations within the Dominion.

Resolution No. 3, Pollution of Waters:

Whereas wild bird life, fisheries, summer resort beaches, property in and about harbors, and even human life on this continent and on the high seas have been seriously endangered because of the pollution of waters by oil and other deleterious substances, which have heretofore been deposited in or upon the waters and;

Whereas all these resources are of the utmost moment to our people; Be it

RESOLVED, in view of the fact that this nuisance is largely controllable, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in conference assembled urges the prompt adoption by the proper authorities of suitable measures for stopping the pollution of the waters of this continent whether inland, coastal or pelagic, and further urges that such action as may be necessary respecting oil pollution of the waters of the high seas be taken by mutual agreement between the maritime powers of the world.

The Game Refuge Bill:

Whereas it is generally acknowledged that the future safety of our migratory birds, many kinds of fur-bearing animals and valuable fish depends upon saving from indiscriminate drainage operations and perpetuating many important water and marsh areas as breeding, feeding and resting places for wild life: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Association urges the early passage of the Migratory Bird Refuge Bill (S.2913-H.R.745) now pending in Congress, and pledges its active support of this measure.

The late Napoleon A. Comeau:

RESOLVED, that the members of the International Association of Game Fish and Conservation Commissioners learned with deepest regret in the autumn of 1923 of the death of Napoleon A. Comeau, of Godbout, Saguenay County, Province of Quebec, and feel keenly the void thereby created in the ranks of those who devote themselves to those studies of wild life and protection to the pursuit of which he devoted the years of his long and useful life, and deplore the loss thereby sustained to the cause of conservation of the fauna of this continent.

The last resolution is a complimentary one:

RESOLVED, that this Association is warmly appreciative of the many courtesies extended to its members during their convention in the old city of Quebec, and hereby extends its most hearty thanks for the same, mentioning particularly in this connection His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Quebec for his warm address of welcome, the Government of the province for its generous permission to hold the sessions in the Parliament House, to its former esteemed President, the Hon. Honore Mercier, Minister of Lands and Forests, and the Hon. Mr. Perrault, Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, to both of whom the delegates are indebted for the offer of a drive to the Plains of Abraham and the Quebec bridge, unavoidably cancelled on account of the rain; for invitations to the banquet at the Chateau Frontenac tonight, and to the Hon. Mr. Perrault in particular for the gift of copies of the late regretted Napoleon A. Comeau's valuable work, "Life and Sport on the North Shore," as well as for his gift of complimentary fishing and hunting permits for the present season; and to the Hon. Mr. Chambers, Special Officer, Department of

Colonization, Mines, and Fisheries—Fisheries and Game Branch, as master of ceremonies, for his kindness and hospitality.

Mr. Walcott: In regard to the reference which I made to the work of the Izaak Walton League, I have drafted a telegram to be sent from the meeting to John Scott and Will H. Dilg, Chicago. Of course there are many other agencies we know of that are interested in the work; but it occurred to me that here was a new agency, perhaps the largest at the moment, an agency operating particularly in the Middle West, and that it might be advisable to urge them to make strenuous efforts on behalf of the Game Refuge Bill. The telegram is as follows:

Officers and members of the International Association of Conservation Commissioners at their Annual Meeting convened send warmest greetings to officers and members of the Izaak Walton League and congratulations upon the passage by Congress of your Mississippi Bottoms Bill for which you fought with consummate skill. We urge your strenuous activities in support of the Migratory Game Refuge Bill.

President Miles: I take it that the sending of this message is approved. Is there any discussion with reference to the resolutions?

Mr. Lawyer: As a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Comeau I move that the resolution on his demise be adopted by the convention standing and remaining silent for one minute.

Accordingly the members rose and stood for one minute as a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Comeau.

Mr. Lecompte: I would call attention to the fact that a Bill was passed by United States Congress with reference to the pollution of coastal waters by oil-burning ships, becoming effective September 7. I notice there is a resolution to that effect, but the Bill has been passed and signed by the President.

Mr. Tibbits: With respect to the resolution in regard to the pollution of waters, I may say that the Imperial Parliament passed a bill some two or three years ago very much along the line of the legislation just adopted by the United States and which became effective on the 7th of September.

We already have evidence that the bills are not sufficiently wide in their scope. They cannot fully accomplish their purpose for the simple reason that they take care only of oil pollution in the harbors or in coastal waters; whereas it has been very effectually demonstrated that vessels go outside the limits of territorial waters and discharge this oil from their bilges and tanks and the wind and tide bring it on to the coastal waters, along the shores and even into the harbors. That has been particularly noticeable on the St. Lawrence. For instance, around the Island of Anticosti and out in the gulf the vessels empty their tanks—pump out the sludge water—the wind and tide bring it back, and the effect on wild life is very deleterious.

The matter was brought up in the Imperial Parliament a short time ago and a question was asked as to the effectiveness of the Oil in Navigable Waters Bill, as they call the English Bill. The officers who are charged with

its enforcement there have admitted that the bill was not effective, and already an agitation is being started over there toward the accomplishment of some international measure.

I believe a resolution was passed in Congress two sessions ago to the effect that the Department of State of the United States should take the initiative in the matter of calling an international conference to discuss this question. That is the one feature we are particularly interested in. I am connected with the branch which has the enforcement of the marine laws in Canada.

The point I would like to emphasize is that no matter how you legislate locally, this evil will never be adequately taken care of until it is made an international matter, until the different governments get together and frame some effective measure that will prevent a ship from discharging oil not only in coastal or navigable waters which are under the jurisdiction of the different governments, but on the high seas as well.

Devices have been introduced for the separation of oil from the water, which are not only commercially economical but result in a salvage that represents a direct saving. The idea is to have these appliances installed on the ships themselves and also in the harbors where smaller vessels not fitted with the apparatus can have the oil separated and properly dealt with. Steps are being taken in Canada and also on the other side to adopt measures to that end, but the really important feature is to have an international agreement under which every maritime country will bind itself through legislation to prevent the discharge of this material anywhere.

Mr. Chambers: The resolution covers that very point.

Mr. Tibbits: Yes; I simply wanted to say a word in support of it.

On motion duly seconded the resolutions were adopted as a whole.

Mr. Adams, for the Committee on Nominations, submitted the following recommendation of the committee with respect to the officers for the ensuing year:

President, J. B. Harkin, Ottawa, Canada.

First Vice-President, John M. Phillips, Pittsburgh, Penna.

Second Vice-President, Frederic C. Walcott, Norfolk, Conn.

Secretary-treasurer, R. P. Holland, New York.

General Counsel, Guy Amsler, Little Rock, Ark.

On motion of Mr. Woods, seconded by Mr. Doze, the report was accepted and the secretary was instructed to cast a ballot for the persons named, who were duly declared elected to the respective offices for the ensuing year.

President Miles: Mr. Gordon, Mr. Knight, Mr. Williams: Somewhere within the ancient walls of the city of Quebec or perchance on the plains of Abraham you will find Mr. Harkin. I instruct you to proceed in search of him and when you locate him notify him that he has been elected President