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ROTARIANS HEAR ABOUT WILD LIFE

Prince Rupert Rotary Club Thursday made note of the current national Wild Life Week when it had as its guest speaker District Game Warden Edward Martin, who told of the continuing campaign to restore Canada's game animals and birds to something like their primitive abundance.

A provincial game warden for more than 20 years and a trapper before that, Mr. Martin has seen British Columbia's wild life diminish because of poor management coupled with natural and other human agencies. "The last 10 years have seen a great depletion in migratory bird life, caused mainly by poor management of our wild life resources," he declared. "Lack of foresight years ago has been responsible for 50 per cent of the loss."

Major cause of the depletion, he asserted, was the indiscriminate drainage of ponds and sloughs on the prairie flyway by homesteaders and pre-emptors, which robbed the migrating birds of resting places on their trips to and from their Arctic nesting grounds.

On the coast flyway, in which Prince Rupert lies, the migration has diminished too, he said, but was unable to give the reason for it.

"Most of the birds here, while classed as migratory, actually spend the whole year here. They received a setback when their nesting grounds were flooded in the floods of 1936 and were coming along nicely again when the 1948 floods struck. "That was even more serious," he told the Rotarians.

Mr. Martin asserted that "in this locality, no harm is done by hunters at all," mainly be-

cause few hunters ever obtain their bag limits.

Commenting on the trapping of small fur bearing animals, he said that up to 1926, unlicensed trapping had caused a dangerous depletion, which, however, was halted when the practice of licensing trap lines was adopted.

"Prior to 1926, we had no trap line registration and animals became scarce. Then, it was decided to put fur-bearing animals on a sustained yield basis," he said. "Today, we see the results of that planned management."

At the present time, about 95 per cent of trappers in British Columbia are natives and these co-operate well with the game department.

"Today our trappers are no longer merely trappers. They are fur farmers in a natural state," he said.

Result of this management has been an increase in the value of furs sold through Prince Rupert from \$100,000 a year to more than \$250,000, mostly in mink.

"That money means a lot to this city, particularly when it comes in during a slack period in the fishing season," he declared.

The bounty system for con-

trolling predators, mainly wolves and coyotes, has failed, Mr. Martin declared flatly. Game authorities are beginning to realize this and are planning to train predatory animal hunters to rid game areas of the marauders.

"No matter how big a bounty is allowed, the system has proven that it will not work," he said. "The millions that have been spent on bounties in the last few years could have given us an efficient group of predatory hunters."

Mr. Martin disagreed with the argument that nature maintains a fine balance which would be upset if the predators were killed.

"Nature's balance undoubtedly exists where it has not been disturbed by the advent of man," he said. "However, when man disturbs by the advent of man, most crafty animals survive. In order to protect the weaker animals, we must control the predators."

Mr. Martin was thanked for his address by Rotary Club President D. C. Stevenson. Guests at the meeting were B. J. Bacon, A. R. Nichols and W. J. Scott.

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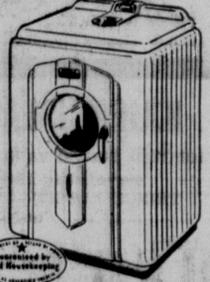
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Canada's CCL unions are affiliated with the CIO in the United States. But some Canadian leaders of the CCL are advocating Socialism. They take a position directly opposite to that of Scottish-born Philip Murray who is outspokenly opposed to Socialism, Communism or any form of collectivism.

Like William Green, president of the AFL, Philip Murray sees Competitive Free Enterprise as the foundation of the rights and security of organized labor.

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