

work of public utility like water tanks for cattle, drinking water supplies, requirements for the mosques and temples which are hanging fire for want of money, and if the Forest Officers could persuade the local population to collect subscriptions for such items of public utility by charging small fees for such magic lantern and cinema shows they will not only endear themselves in the minds of people but will create a lasting interest in the cause for which we stand.

The Forest Research Institute has a set of lantern lectures which can be borrowed and the Inspector-General of Forests is desirous of collecting suitable cinema films which can be usefully employed in such propaganda. In fact a start has been made and within a reasonable time it is hoped that certain lengths of films will be available for the provinces which can be shown in rural areas even where no electric current is available. If certain lengths of films of humorous and of general interest can also be included this type of propaganda can become a sure success.

There is no doubt that if every province were to circulate the particulars of magic lantern slides and cinema films they have for loan to other provinces, a good deal of work can be done without waiting any length of time.

We shall look forward to hearing more of these activities in future annual reports.

ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE.

Resolution adopted at the meeting of January 30th, 1935.

Resolutions under item No. 1 of the Agenda.

1. From a general review of the position of the fauna of India the Conference recommends—

That the following species are deserving of special consideration :—

1. All kinds of rhinoceros ;
2. Wild ass of Sind ;
3. Sind ibex ;

4. Kathiawar lion ;
5. Musk deer ;
6. Cheeta ;
7. Buffalo ;
8. Monitor lizard (except in the Punjab) ;
9. Pangolin ;
10. Caracal ;
11. Brow-antlered deer ;
12. Pink-headed duck ;
13. White-winged wood duck.

That all Provinces and States where these animals or birds are found should be asked to co-operate in order to afford them necessary protection and to prevent them from being exterminated.

2. The Conference agrees that the duty of preserving the fauna in areas under its charge should be definitely laid on the Forest Department but, at the same time, urges the necessity of co-operation on the part of the Police and Magistracy.

It recommends—

That revenue derived from the following sources should be earmarked for the protection of game and the payment of rewards :—

Shooting, fishing or game licenses.

Fines for breaches of game laws.

That there should be the closest co-operation between the Forest Department and all associations, the object of which is the preservation of game and wild life. Where such associations cover large areas, they would be well-advised to form local committees.

The Conference is of the opinion that a portion of the money earmarked as recommended above should be allocated to approved associations for the preservation of wild life.

3. The Conference recommends—

(1) That the introduction of Nature Study as an optional subject in secondary schools be brought to the notice of the Educational Departments of Provincial Governments, Wild Life Associations and Boy Scout Organisations.

(2) That the attention of the Educational Departments be drawn to the need for the provision of better facilities for the training of teachers in Nature Study and particularly as regards the provision of suitable books of assistance to them in teaching the subject.

(3) That more use be made of museums for the teaching of Nature Study and financial assistance be given them for lectures in Natural History.

(4) That suitable lantern slides for illustration purposes should be provided.

(5) That steps be taken to issue cheap publications in various vernacular languages suitable for popular instruction.

4. The Conference recommends—

That Forest Departments should deal with game preservation in a separate section of their annual reports, noting the numbers of animals shot and any particulars of the increase or decrease of animals or birds in their areas.

5. The Conference recognizes the valuable work of existing Natural History Societies and trusts that the activities of existing societies will be extended and new ones started.

6. The Conference recommends that all local Governments who have not already done so should seriously consider the possibility of detailing one or more of their forest officers for the special duty of preservation of wild life as also the advisability of appointing suitable persons as Honorary Game Wardens with the powers of Forest Officers to enable them to give effective assistance in the preservation of the fauna and flora in their neighbourhood.

7. The Conference recommends that a strict ban be placed on cinema pictures which are likely to create terror and consequently hatred for wild animals among the public, specially children.

Resolution under item No. 2 of the Agenda.

The Conference considers the inoculation of village cattle against rinderpest as carried out in the Bison areas in Madras and experimentally in Bihar and Orissa and now proposed in the United Provinces

for the protection of deer, in co-operation with the Veterinary Department, to be of great importance, not only for the protection of the game but also for domestic cattle and recommends that protective inoculation should be extended wherever possible.

Resolutions under item No. 3 of the Agenda.

The Conference is of the opinion :—

1. That the essential and basic necessity in preventing the undue destruction of wild birds and animals outside forest areas lies in the prohibition, or at least the control, of the sale, purchase or possession of such birds or animals, whether dead or alive, and of all parts thereof.

2. That if the total prohibition of sale, purchase or possession is found to be impossible, it is important that there should be control by license and that this form of control should include the maintenance of registers of sale and purchase and should further place on the licensee the onus of proving that purchase has been through a legally licensed channel. Taxidermists should be included in any licensing scheme.

3. That in any system of licensing it is important to differentiate between “killing, capture or possession” on the one hand, and “buying, selling or offering for sale” on the other.

4. That the netting, trapping, snaring or noosing of wild birds or animals needing protection should be prohibited throughout the year or, if it is necessary to permit this under license, the rules should allow local authorities to settle from time to time the number of such licenses which should be granted in any area and the dates between which they should be valid.

5. That certain animals and birds requiring special protection should be scheduled by local Governments and brought under the definition of “forest produce” in Section 2 (4) (a) instead of 2 (4) (b) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

6. That in certain cases (such as the Sind ibex and the wild ass of Cutch) a special agency must be provided for the protection of

particular species by the Government or Governments concerned and, in the special case of the wild ass and the Indian lion a convention between the States concerned is necessary.

7. That in any legislation that may hereafter be enacted by local Governments, a clause should be inserted to allow of the notification from time to time of any species or part thereof as "contraband," that is to say, its possession, except under a certificate of origin, should be unlawful.

8. That the attention of Governments should be drawn to the growing and evil practice of shooting, hunting or chasing wild animals from or in the immediate vicinity of wheeled vehicles, particularly motor-cars and that a strong recommendation be made to local Governments to take steps to check this unsporting and destructive method of destroying animals both inside and outside reserved forests.

9. That shooting by artificial light should be prohibited at all times except, with the special permission of local Governments, in the case of animals classed as vermin.

10. That watching in the neighbourhood of water or salt-licks to shoot animals, other than carnivora, should be prohibited.

11. (i) That the importance of protection of fish should be recognized by local Governments, not only from a sporting but also from an economic point of view. This should include legislation against—

- (a) The prevention of access to breeding waters.
- (b) The destruction of fry in breeding area.
- (c) "Fixed engines" in streams and especially those which prevent the movement of fish to and from breeding waters.
- (d) Killing fish by the use of explosives.
- (e) Poisoning of water.

(ii) That the protection of fish be put under authorities responsible for game protection where this is practicable.

12. The Conference welcomes the recent legislation enacted under the Punjab Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act but is of the opinion that, unless offences under this Act are made cognizable, its

enforcement will be rendered very difficult. It is further of the opinion that similar legislation, but with the amendments suggested above in paragraphs 3, 6 and 7, could be adopted by other provinces with advantage.

13. The Conference strongly recommends the formation of societies for the protection of wild life in areas where they do not already exist, and is of the opinion that one of their principal duties should be to assist in the enforcement of such legislation as may be adopted for the preservation of wild life in their areas.

14. The Conference emphasizes the importance of educating public opinion as, without strong public support, no efforts to preserve wild life can be effective. It therefore recommends that societies for the protection of wild life should make propaganda a principal part of their work.

Resolution under item No. 4 of the Agenda.

The Conference recommends—

(1) That all free guns licensed for the protection of crops should be restricted to single-barrelled smooth bore muzzle-loaders.

(2) That license in Form No. XVI should have the particular sport protection specified, that permits for sport should only be given to display *bona fide* sportsmen whose status is such as to warrant such a license.

(3) That in Thanas near forests the Forest Officer or the local Shooting Club, if any, should be consulted before new licenses for sport are granted.

(4) That retainers' licenses if allowed at all should be strictly limited.

(5) That licenses in Form No. XIX should be limited in number and the area for which the license is valid should be specified and restricted to the holding or village concerned.

(6) That selected police and forest officers should be empowered under the Arms Rules to demand the production of a licensed weapon at any time.

(7) That ammunition for licenses for protection or display should be limited to a definite number of rounds.

(8) That an entry of the quantity of ammunition purchased by a licensee should be entered on his gun license.

Resolution under item No. 5 of the Agenda.

The Conference recommends—

(1) that the Government of India should assume the obligations contained in Article 9, paragraphs 3, 8 and 9, as permitted under Article 13 (3) of the Convention concluded at the International Conference for the Protection of the Fauna and Flora of Africa in respect of all their territories.

(2) That steps should be taken to draw up an All-India Convention.
Resolution under item No. 6 of the Agenda.

The Conference considers that the convening of an Asiatic Conference at the present moment would be premature but is of the opinion that such a conference is desirable in the interests of Asiatic wild life and that when such a Conference is held, India should be represented.
