

THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI WILD LIFE AND GAME REFUGE

TEN million acres of land will be embraced in federal preserves for the protection of fish, fowl and game when the government acquires the upper Mississippi wild life and game refuge. Regulations for the new preserve were signed jointly on June 24 by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine and Secretary of Commerce Hoover.

Nor is the total of protected havens for wild fowl represented by the federal acreage, for almost every state has converted areas of its own into conservation projects, and hundreds of farmers have limited hunting expeditions on their property. Figures from the United States Biological Survey, issued on July 1, according to a report issued by the Associated Press, show from 165,000 to 200,000 acres involved in the Mississippi wild fowl project, 36,000 acres of which already is under contract to the government at \$5 an acre. Most of the territory is meander land, unsuited to agricultural purposes, but a number of owners are asking as much as \$26 an acre.

Congress made available \$3,000,000 to purchase the refuge. Only about \$300,000 of that sum has been used, and whether the next session will increase the latitude in price is a matter of pertinent importance. Much of the higher-priced land lies in Illinois. Wisconsin has supplied the bulk of the present federal possessions, Minnesota recently donated its entire Mississippi holdings and the rest of the refuge is on the Iowa side of the river.

While federal regulations will predominate in the preserve, there is to be no conflict with state fish and game laws. H. P. Sheldon, chief United States game warden, is pleased with the suggested Mid-West conservation code sponsored by the Illinois General Assembly. Other states in the upper Mississippi Valley and the Great Lakes region are expected to join Illinois in adoption of uniform statutes.

Such plans are desirable. They add to conciseness and make conservation at once more practicable and more easily enforced. Our best example, according to Mr. Sheldon, is the migratory game bird treaty with Great Britain, by which wild fowls are protected in this country and Canada on a reciprocity basis.

Officials of the Biological Survey emphasize the benefit of uniformity in game laws.

For thirty years this country has worked to replace local county laws with state and federal statutes. North Carolina is the most recent state to come into the fold and now the laws of more than forty states conform to federal regulations. There is no other satisfactory way to systematize open season for especially wild geese and ducks.

Government authorities believe game to be increasing in the East. It is maintaining a level in the

Middle West, while the West itself, because of drainage projects and light rainfall, has suffered a decrease.

SIR WILLIAM THISELTON-DYER

ON July 28, Sir William Thiselton-Dyer reached the age of eighty-four years. In referring to this anniversary, *Nature* writes: "His many friends rejoice to offer affectionate tribute to one who has done so much to promote and extend the plant resources of the British Empire. Nearly two years ago (September 26, 1925) we published an appreciative article upon Sir William's work at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and its influence upon both pure and economic botany, and we are glad to know that its importance is widely recognized. He and Lady Thiselton-Dyer celebrated their golden wedding on June 23, and among the messages of congratulation were one from Mr. L. S. Amery, secretary of state for the colonies, and another from Professor von Goebel, the doyen of German professors of botany. Mr. Amery referred appreciatively to Sir William's studies in the field of botanical enterprise, by which he has 'rendered such valuable services in all corners of the Empire,' and Professor von Goebel wrote: 'It was you who first brought English and German botany into association which—serving as it does purely ideal aims—could not be destroyed by the war; and, further, we German botanists remember with gratitude the great services which you rendered with regard to Kew, with which in company with the two Hookers your name also will always be connected.' It should be as encouraging to scientific workers generally as it is gratifying to Sir William Thiselton-Dyer to know that the seed of voluntary scientific service, such as was sown by him during many years, has borne rich fruits for the benefit of the human race, and that its value is understood in many lands."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR FRANK B. MORRISON, assistant director of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Experiment Station, has been appointed director of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., by the trustees of Cornell University. He succeeds Dr. Roscoe W. Thatcher, who resigned recently to accept the presidency of the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

DR. DAVID WHITE, who has been serving as chairman of the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council for the past three years, has returned to his former position in the U. S. Geological Survey.

DR. T. WAYLAND VAUGHAN, director of the Scripps