



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

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PROPOSE FEDERAL LICENSE
TO HUNT MIGRATORY BIRDS

Passage of the New-Anthony bill to provide for Federal licenses to hunt migratory birds and for the establishment of game refuges and public shooting grounds for such birds would affect about 5,000,000 American sportsmen, the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, estimates. The bill has been favorably reported by the Senate committee on public lands and surveys. In the House the bill is in the committee on agriculture.

The bill provides that each hunter of migratory birds shall obtain a Federal license, at a cost of \$1 for the season, the licenses to be issued at any post office in the United States. Out of the proceeds not less than 45 per cent is to be spent by the Government, through a proposed Migratory Bird Refuge Commission, in buying or renting land suitable for the establishment of migratory game bird refuges which would serve as breeding and feeding places for birds during the period of their flight north, or the close season, and as public shooting grounds during the open season. An additional 45 per cent will be used for the enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Lacey Act and the remaining 10 per cent for expenses in issuing licenses and other administrative expenses.

The bill provides that the Secretary of Agriculture shall be chairman of the Commission, and that other members shall be the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, and two members of each House of Congress. Rules and regulations governing the administration of the proposed refuges would be placed in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture. The proposed measure does not in any way obviate the necessity of procuring a State hunting license.