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WILDLIFE CONFERENCE MARKS
NEW ERA, SAYS F. A. SILCOX

The North American Wildlife Conference, held at the invitation of President Roosevelt February 3 to 7, marks the beginning of a new era in wildlife conservation and restoration, according to F. A. Silcox, Chief of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, chairman of the conference.

The primary achievement of the Conference, he said, was the creation of the General Wildlife Federation which will coordinate the efforts and policies of millions of people vitally interested in or dependent upon the nation's wildlife resources which are estimated to represent an annual value of approximately \$1,000,000,000.

"Including representatives from Canada and Mexico distinguished for their activities in the field of wildlife conservation," Mr. Silcox said, "some 2,000 individuals attended the Conference. The Conference had three major purposes: The organization of a general federation, the development of a North American program for the advancement of wildlife restoration and conservation, and the presentation of information which would help solve mutual problems.

"Those attending the Conference and who unanimously agreed upon the formation of the General Wildlife Federation were not delegates in an official sense," said Mr. Silcox. "They will take the concrete proposals accepted by the Conference for such a Federation to the folks 'back home' for ratification. In this manner, the organization will be built 'from the ground up' instead of from the top down.

Such an organization once ratified and made the official voice of several millions of citizens--with research facilities at its command through cooperation with private and governmental agencies concerned with wildlife problems--will be a force for the protection and furtherance of wildlife conservation without parallel in history."

Mr. Silcox praised the Conference for its unanimous acclamation of Jay N. (Ding) Darling as acting president of the Federation. "'Ding' Darling is a national figure, intensely interested in wildlife restoration, and is independent of Federal, state or special interests or groups," he said. "Under his leadership, I feel sure that the Federation will progress rapidly toward an effective national program."

Three temporary vice-presidents were elected, Mr. Silcox said, who also rank high in the field of wildlife conservation activities. They are: former Senator Frederick C. Walcott of Connecticut for the East, I. T. Quinn of Alabama for the South and Central regions, and William L. Finley of Oregon for the West.

A tentative constitution, which provides for an organization based on local representation, was endorsed, subject revision or change when a permanent organization is completed. Under its provisions civic clubs, schools, Women's clubs, agricultural organizations and other associations interested in wildlife conservation will name delegates to form county units; the county units will elect State delegates, one from each State to be a member of the General Wildlife Federation. The States will be grouped into 13 regions; one delegate from each region will be named to the board of directors, with six other directors to be selected at large at the annual meetings of the Federation.

"As an opportunity for the presentation of facts, discoveries and information pertinent to the solution of wildlife problems," said Mr. Silcox, "the Conference was also an outstanding success. During eight general sessions and twelve special sessions devoted to particular phases of wildlife management and conservation, leaders and experts gave talks and led discussions."