

nected with wild life matters has been practically nil, while the controlling bodies have been content to rely on mere hearsay evidence, especially if the hearsay evidence was in the direction desired. Now is this business-like? Would anyone care to have their own personal affairs run without a guiding hand and without any common policy? Can such a medley be in the best interests of the community? Surely the whole should be looked upon as a whole. All individual interests are inter-mixed and inter-allied intimately with the care and control of wild-life matters. Under our present system or lack of system one body is frequently defeating the aims of another. Nay, even one Acclimatisation Society is at times working on opposing lines to others for the want of expert leading direction and the representation of other interests on their executives than sportsmen. In the course of the direction by the Department, which is supposed to control Acclimatisation Society efforts, the opinion of the first authorities in the land have in the past been disregarded, as witness the wholesale distribution of plant-eating animals in our forests.

Surely common sense and patriotism should appeal in bettering our present methods and in remedying the disastrous mistakes of the past. Nature lovers, for one body, submit that they have as much right as the hunter to have their wishes considered as they enjoy themselves as much, nay more, in their way than the hunters do in theirs and there are more of them. Likewise the forester, the agriculturist, and many others have their rights.

Wild-life care is the work of experts and much scientific and accurate research is necessary before coming to conclusions. Acclimatisation Societies have been accused in the past of deciding in five minutes matters on which it would take twelve months careful scientific work to reach a logical conclusion.

Acclimatisation Societies should surely aim at something higher and nobler than merely catering for the killer. They can be converted into highly useful bodies by sanctioning and obtaining the representation of other bodies on their executives besides sportsmen, and can be converted into a valuable connecting link between the controlling body and the people. Upland game birds have now become negligible in numbers and our water fowl is rapidly on the decrease mainly owing to poaching all the year round. Our forests are sadly menaced by the presence in them of plant-eating animals. Nay, the very prosperity of this fair land is in jeopardy owing to past blunders in wild-life matters. A Commission or Board of Enquiry into the results of the past efforts to administer wild life and the placing of the whole matter on a sound basis is long overdue.