

MISCELLANEOUS.

C.S.

1928.

No. 419/28.

H. E. the Ag. Governor.

SUBJECT.

1928 10th October.

10th October.

Previous Paper.

DESTRUCTION OF HOUSE SPARROWS

MINUTES.

Minute from H. E. the Ag. Governor dated 10th October, 1928.

ag. Genl. Naturalist

Will you please submit
detailed proposals as requested by
H.E. in Red ①.

C. J. G.
Loves
15/10/28

Hon. Col. Secy:

Scheme for sparrow destruction attached.

I regret that the delay has been due to
Customs work

Subsequent Paper.

ag. B.
ag. Nat.
13/11/28.

T/E.

Submitted.

C. J. G.
13/11/28

Off^l Sect.

I think that the
Spanners in the city can
properly be termed a "nuisance"
under the Public Health Ord. 1894
as by pollution of rain-water
supply and by destruction of cricket
food-stuffs.

2. Will you please ask
the Col. Surgeon to bring up
this question if he agrees in my
view before an early meeting of
the Board of Health under the
view to the preparation of an
organised campaign for their
extermination or reduction?

419/28

(2)

3 It will no doubt fall the
 question of the Chief Committee or
 bodies of Reviewers of value in
 this connection.

Just

13. 11. 28.

Hon. Col. Surgeon.

Referred to you for necessary
 action

A. J. F.
 14/11/28

Hon. Col. Secretary.

Before embarking on this campaign,
 which, judging from Mr Bennett's report, does
 not appear too hopeful an enterprise,
 I would be grateful for any data that
 may be available as to damage done
 by sparrows, particularly from a health
 standpoint. - Frankly, the wholesale
 wiring of sites or buildings sound to me
 impracticable except at prohibitive cost, and
 promiscuous shooting throughout the town has its
 objections. Possibly Mr Bennett could suggest
 the introduction of some natural enemies, e.g. hawks?

J. H. H. H.
 16/11/28

for
ag. Govt. Naturalist.
For your further remarks
please.

C. J. J.
for S.
17/11/28

Hon. Col. Secy.

I have no data compiled as to damage done in this colony. Most gardens are attacked. The damage done by sparrows (*P. domesticus*) in all countries where they live, & they are nearly world-wide, is only too well known.

From a health point, much can be said against them. Sparrows build a bulky nest, & if the site will allow, a new one for each sitting, thus in a very short time a formidable mass of material is gathered & will entirely fill any space irrespective of size. There is one danger to be expected. Another is that sparrows line the nest with soft things. wool, cotton, feathers. These are gathered from any source. In one case within my knowledge a large number of nests were lined with blood, & puss stained cotton wool undoubtedly derived from a nearby diphtheria Hospital.

Experiments in other places have proved the introduction of rapacious birds & animals to be a worse plague than the one intended to wipe out. The Falklands in common with S America, is the most thickly populated part of the world with Raptors. = Hawks. Etc. This has not prevented the sparrow from becoming numerous or even prevented its spread over the colony.

ag Bennett
20/11/1928
as Nat:

Officer.

What does Chief Constable

say, please?

Yes

21. 11. 28

Chief Constable,

For your remarks please,

C. J. J.
21/11/28

Hon Col Sect

Sir,

- 1) at the early part of this spring I made several enquiries as to what destruction was caused by these sparrows and I found that most gardens were attacked by them and small seed eaten.
- 2) since getting this paper I have made further enquiry and find that the destruction by these birds in the garden when seeds are coming through the ground is very great.
- 3) I have also inspected water stools and down pipes where these birds resort, and find them in a filthy condition, their nests I found being built of all rubbish, imaginable even to red lead. I am of the opinion that the destruction of the sparrows is necessary, and would suggest, that they be trapped, bird lime, or netted, and also that the children be encouraged to trap them, but not cruelly.

J.H.C.S.
C.C.

5-12-28

Y/E

Submitted

A. J. J.
10/12/28

Off^{ce} Sect.

Please refer back
to Mr. Col. Surgeon and ask
that as President of the Board
he will be good enough to
assist in the consideration of
this question at any rate by
ascertaining the views of the Members
e.g. as to its importance.

Ynd

10. 12. 28.

Hon. Sol. Surgeon,
 Will you kindly proceed
 as in H.E.S. minute of the
 10th of Dec. 1928?

G. J. D.
 11/12/28.

Hon. Bal. Secy.

The question was brought up and carefully
 considered at the last meeting of the Bd. H.
 on 17th Dec. While the meeting appreciated
 the nuisance and damage done by sparrows,
 they were not prepared to recommend an
 organised campaign for their extermination
 at present in view of other reforms in
 housing and sanitation of more pressing
 urgency. The minute of the meeting
 is recorded as follows:

" 3. House Sparrows. The question of
 the extermination of house sparrows,
 with the Government representations ~~on~~
 concerning this increasing nuisance,
 were fully considered. After full
 discussion the Board were of opinion
 that while an organised campaign
 against sparrows, either by shooting,
 trapping, or wiring of premises did
 not appear practicable or expedient,
 occupiers of houses and other individuals
 should be encouraged to reduce the
 number of sparrows by destroying
 their nests and clearing their breeding
 places, or by killing them in any
 humane manner."

4. Unless more drastic action is

required it may possibly be advantageous
to publish a notice in the terms (or sense)
of the latter part of this minute to
encourage individual action for reducing
the number of sparrows in a humane manner.

Stapledon
Col. Surg.
19/1/29

y.2

I submit. In view of the

opinion of the Board of Health

in this matter y.2. may not

wish, perhaps, that any steps

therein should be initiated by

the fact of any such at present.

Yours

22. 1. 29.

Mr C.S.

The latter part of para 3 in the Col
Surgery's minute shall be published in
the Penguin with the request that the
public will assist as far as they can
in this matter. no other steps can be taken
at present.

Edw. C.C./

Please see memo 4-3 for
the "Penguin" page 24. 1. 29.

24/29

(1)

Oct. 1/2 Sat.

Please act as Ag. for.

Let. to submit detailed

proposals for a campaign for

the destruction of house-sparrows

in the town of Newark.

2. No doubt Chief

Constable will be able to

afford his assistance in this

connection.

Yours

10. 10. 28.

The complete elimination of the English Sparrow from the Colony can never be hoped for, now that it has become so firmly established.

The reduction in its numbers is imperative. Their breeding capacity is great, -each pair being capable of producing from 30 to 50 young per year . They are highly destructive to native birds as well as to garden produce.

I would beg to suggest the following means:-

All breeding sites about buildings should be wired over with wire netting sufficiently fine to exclude them. The Cathedral appears to be the worst spot. as in this building the whole roof between the wooden ceiling and the iron(some 6 inches) seems open to them from the outside.

Nests should be pulled down with a pole wherever this is possible. For this and other purposes a certain amount of trespass might be necessary.

Trials could be made with " Bird-lime" and with "Ratstick" yet I fear the captures would be too slow.

Early morning shooting with a light gun and very fine shot at previously baited spots would be the quickest means of thinning. This could be followed up with an air gun at single individuals on gutters and wires.

A small sum of money would be required to meet the expense. Somewhat larger if it was thought desirable to offer a bounty per head killed.

Ag Bennett
As. Gov. Nat.
13 Nov 1928

"Penguin")
Home Sparrows in Hawley

(4)

We are authorised to stop that
the question of the extermination
of home sparrows in Hawley was
considered at a recent meeting of
the Board of Health when it was
decided ~~to~~ after full

discussion that while an organised

campaign against sparrows did not

appear practicable or desirable

occupies of houses at other

individuals should be encouraged

to reduce the numbers of sparrows

by disturbing their nests and

clearing their breeding places or

3)

by killing the $\angle$ any house
names.

The people are requested
according to assist as far as
they can $\angle$ the matter.
