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U. S. BIOLOGICAL SURVEY TO RESTORE
MINNESOTA LAKE AS WATERFOWL REFUGE

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Restoration of the Mud Lake area in Marshall County, Minn., as a migratory waterfowl refuge is being started this spring by the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A recent executive order sets aside 55,170 acres ultimately to be acquired for the refuge and names it the Mud Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

Thousands of waterfowl nested in the Mud Lake area before drainage began there in 1911. At that time the lake covered about 5,000 acres and was from 2 to 6 feet deep. It was studded with marshy islands and surrounded by many small lakes and pot-holes. Peat fires that followed drainage destroyed much of the vegetation providing food and cover for wild ducks and other wildlife. Most of the area has since been found unsuited for agriculture.

Among waterfowl that will benefit particularly by the restoration of Mud Lake are the mallard, blue-winged teal, gadwall, redhead, canvasback, and ruddy duck. These still frequent the area, but in small numbers as the lake frequently is dry.

Through the Resettlement Administration and with the cooperation of Minnesota the Biological Survey already has acquired a large part of the refuge land. A contract for building the main dam for impounding water has been awarded

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to a private contractor. C. C. C. boys in a Biological Survey camp cooperating with the State in developing a State refuge at Thief Lake have practically completed their work and now will devote most of their time to improving the new Federal refuge, which is nearby. At Mud Lake they will build dams and other water-impounding devices, headquarters buildings, roads, telephone lines; remove fire hazards, and plant waterfowl food and cover plants.

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