

similarly to the Pribylov Islands—and the zone agreed upon between England and Russia is a zone of thirty miles. This zone of 60 geographical miles is calculated to render it almost useless for Canadian sealers to go to the neighbourhood of the Pribylov Islands. The Alaska Commercial Company is given a practical monopoly of the seal fishing in the neighbourhood of the Pribylov Islands. That is the first regulation and that is bad enough. The second regulation is:—

The two governments shall forbid their citizens and subjects, respectively, to kill, capture or pursue, in any manner whatever, during the season extending each year from the 1st of May to the 31st of July, both inclusive, the fur-seals on the high sea, in the part of the Pacific Ocean, inclusive of the Behring Sea, which is situated to the north of the 35th degree of north latitude and eastward of the 180th degree of longitude from Greenwich, till it strikes the water boundary described in article 1 of the Treaty of 1867, between the United States and Russia, and following that line up to Behring Straits.

This article forbids the killing of seals, not in the Behring Sea only, not even in the open sea to the north and west of British Columbia, but actually forbids the killing of seal east of longitude 180°, from about the latitude of San Francisco north to Behring Straits. You start from the latitude of San Francisco, and run west to the 180th meridian of longitude, and then north to Behring Strait, and in all that region, our sealers are not to be allowed to kill seals from the 1st day of May to the 31st of July, which is just the season when they go out after seals. They can kill seals, if they can get them, in August, September and October, and afterwards; but the seals are not to be had then. At the season of the year when the privilege of killing seals is of any value, our fishermen are forbidden to kill seals, not only in Behring Sea, but in the whole Pacific Ocean, east of the 180th meridian. The hon. gentleman says Americans are excluded too, but the Commercial Company of Alaska is not excluded. It just means this, that the most extreme care is taken to provide that the greatest possible number of seals shall go to the Pribylov Islands, where they can be slaughtered by the Alaska Company.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I cannot see it.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That must be the result. If nobody else is allowed to kill

seals in the Pacific Ocean or Behring Sea, it follows of course that the men who are allowed to kill them at the Pribylov Islands to which they all resort, are going to be benefited and nobody else. There has been nothing whatever done to prevent the indiscriminate and unlimited slaughter of seals while they are on the shore. A regulation to that effect was proposed on behalf of Canada, but refused by the United States. Article 6 of the Regulation says:—

The use of nets, firearms and explosives shall be forbidden in the fur-seal fishing. This restriction shall not apply to shot guns when such fishing takes place outside of Behring Sea, during the season when it may be lawfully carried on.

Now the only way in which our Canadian sealers as a rule have killed seals has been by shooting them with shot guns. They are not to be allowed to use shot guns in the Behring Sea at all, and not on the Pacific Ocean, at the season when seals are to be found there. Practically the regulations are prohibitory. It has been stated by the hon. leader of the Government and I think by some other hon. gentlemen, and it was stated in another place also, that vessels were fitted out this year for the seal fishing as usual. I happen, for the best of reasons, to know something about that matter. Where have the vessels gone that have been fitted out in Victoria this year? They have gone to the regions west of the 180th meridian. They have gone to the coast of Japan and the coast of the continent of Asia. The people of British Columbia interested in the sealing business look upon these regulations as being practically prohibitory. If the people of the United States had succeeded—if their claim to exclusive jurisdiction in the Behring Sea had been recognized, could things have been worse? They did not claim exclusive jurisdiction in the Pacific Ocean, they claimed it only in Behring Sea. If their claim to exclusive jurisdiction in Behring Sea had been recognized, our sealers would have been better off to-day, because then they could have killed seals in the Pacific Ocean without restriction, while now they are shut out from the Pacific Ocean at large as well as from Behring Sea. I can readily understand why the Canadian arbitrators should not have assented to these regulations. This paragraph of the Speech is in itself unobjectionable, because there is no tone of boasting about it; and I agree with the gentlemen who have spoken