

the fur seal into Hudson's Bay and other waters upon the eastern coast of Canada.

He said: I think whoever has looked into the question will have seen that there is practically no great difference between the habits of the various species of seal. They are all animals that resort to pretty high latitudes, and species of the common seal are found in the waters of Hudson's Bay and on the Atlantic coast, and the habits and means of subsistence of the common seal and the fur-bearing seal are much the same. It seems to me it would be an experiment well worth trying to see how far these animals may be propagated in Hudson's Bay and in the waters of the Atlantic coast. I am of the opinion that if proper care were taken for their protection, it would be found that they could subsist as well off the Atlantic coast as in the Pacific Ocean. There is no great difference in the climate between the Pribyloff Islands and the climates on the eastern coast of Newfoundland or Sable Island, or for that matter of Labrador or Hudson's Bay. It seems the extent of sea area over which these animals wander depends largely upon the migratory habits of the fish upon which they subsist, and the same food may be found on the Atlantic coast that is required for the subsistence of the seals of the South Seas or the Northern Pacific. This being so, I think it is highly desirable that the experiment should be made by the Government of propagating the fur-bearing seal in the waters mentioned in the resolution. I need not further occupy the attention of the House with discussing the subject. It appears to me to be a matter our interest in which is very obvious, and the cost of the experiment would not be very great.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I take it for granted that the hon. gentleman who has moved this resolution does not propose to do more than elicit an expression of opinion in an informal way of the hon. members of this House, and does not propose to ask that the resolution be pressed to a vote, which would involve either its adoption or final rejection. At all events, I may be permitted to say that I do not think the time has come when it would be advisable even to make the attempt to which the hon. gentleman refers. Independently altogether of the expense that might be involved, I should like to point out that there are very great difficulties in the way. The greatest difficulty is this: notwithstanding the investigation that the Russian Government has been conducting for a century into the interesting question of the habits of the fur seal, notwithstanding the enormous expense that the United States Government in recent years has incurred in studying the habits of that animal, and notwithstanding the very thorough examination, for the time the examination occupied, that the British Commissioners made into the habits of the fur seal, the most important facts connected with the habits of that ani-

mal are in bitter controversy to-day. The Russian authorities differ among themselves, the Russian and the United States authorities conflict—I refer to the scientific men in both countries—and the British Commissioners were at issue, and are at issue, with those eminent authorities in relation to the chief points connected with that extraordinary animal, the fur seal of the Pacific Ocean. In the second place, there is no analogy between the hair seal of the Atlantic or the hair seal of the Pacific, because that animal is found in the waters of both, and the fur seal. The habits of those animals are as widely distinguished as possible. The fur seal is known to frequent only a few particulars spots as habitats, and to come back with unerring regularity to those places, or points near to them, and always resort to the land, or nearly always resort to the land, for purposes of procreation, whereas the hair seal is known to reproduce its species at sea, and on our side of the continent is found on the ice and not on the land. The size of the animals is altogether different, one running only a few pounds comparatively, and the fur seal running up to 700 or even 1,000 pounds in weight. I will not weary the House by going over the enormous differences that exist between those two species of animals, separate and entirely distinct as they are, not only as regards habits and form, but particularly as regards value. Then, again, the question of climate or temperature to which the hon. gentleman has referred cannot help us much, because with an enormous area of water and the mainland on the Pacific Ocean and on the Asiatic coast, at or near the Commander Islands, and the surrounding territory in the sea of Othosk, notwithstanding a similar climate prevailing so far as we now know, we look in vain all over that great area for a sign of the fur seal outside of a few spots. For 100 years, so far as the Pacific is concerned, the fur seal has been found in certain particular spots. It is true that cases have been found in which animals seen on one of the Pribyloff's, say at St. George, have been found the next year on St. Paul; but it was found impossible for the British case to establish, what was supposed to be the case at one time, that those animals were found indiscriminately in the various rookeries at great distances apart, like the Commander and Pribyloff Islands and vice versa. There is another very serious question to be considered before we should proceed to anything like a decision on this question, a decision in which the fishermen of the Atlantic coast are very directly interested, and that is this: nature has placed these extraordinary animals, the fur seals, in the southern and northern Pacific waters, and nature has also placed an enormous quantity of fish in these waters, so far as information now goes, far in excess of the fisheries of the Atlantic coast, and it is calculated that each fur seal consumes tons upon tons of fish every season. I would not

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell).