

Whaling Convention

two houses in the session of 1948. A very interesting debate took place in the house at that time, which may be found at page 3798 of volume IV of *Hansard* of 1948. For the convenience of hon. members the convention is appended to this bill.

At the time of the ratification of the convention in 1948 whaling had dropped to a very low figure; and because of Canada's small interest in whaling it was not thought necessary at that time to pass any legislation to implement the terms of the convention. By way of illustration, whaling had dropped from a total of 1,198 whales killed in British Columbia in 1911 to 91 killed in 1943. At that time the Consolidated Whaling Corporation ceased operation and no whales were taken on the Pacific coast by Canada during the years 1944 to 1947, inclusive. In 1948 British Columbia Packers, Limited, commenced operations and from that time a flourishing whaling business has grown up from its land station at Coal Harbour on Vancouver island.

With the coming into confederation of Newfoundland in 1949 Canada acquired the responsibility of carrying out the terms of the convention in respect of the existing whaling industry in that province. Newfoundland has had a flourishing whaling industry for many years. There are now two land stations in Newfoundland, one at Williamsport and the other at Trinity Bay; there is also one at Hawkes Harbour, Labrador.

I should now like to put on the record some statistics in connection with the whaling industry of Canada. The number of whales caught on the Pacific coast in 1948 was 182; in 1949, 255; in 1950, 350, and the unrevised figures for 1951 are 437. The number of whales caught on the Atlantic coast in 1948 was 811; in 1949, 580; in 1950, 485; and for 1951 the unrevised figures are 579. The total marketed value of the products for 1948 was \$2,546,370; for 1949, \$1,462,183 and for 1950, \$1,514,311.

The oil produced from whales is an important product and has many important uses, the chief of which are: for the making of soap, for leather tanning, for animal stock food, for poultry food and for hardening of steel. The meal produced from the meat is used chiefly for animal stock-feeding purposes. In the 1950-51 season the world production of whale oil amounted to 2,305,187 barrels as compared with 2,165,505 barrels in the previous year.

[Mr. MacNaught.]

The international whaling commission bases its regulations on scientific information furnished by the member countries. It is considered that only by international agreement can the world stocks of whales be protected against depletion and the existing population maintained and increased.

Since Canada's interest in whaling operations has materially increased, it is thought desirable to enact statutory provisions to carry out the obligations assumed by Canada under the international commission for the regulation of whaling. It is for this purpose that the present bill has been introduced. As hon. members may have noted, it has already received the approval of the other house.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

On section 1—*Short title.*

Mr. Knowles: I should like to ask one or two questions of the parliamentary assistant. I notice he gave figures as to the number of whales that had been caught on the Pacific coast and the Atlantic coast from 1948 to the present. However, he did not say anything about the situation in Hudson bay. Is the catch in that area included in the figures for the Atlantic coast, or is there something distinctive about the whales in Hudson bay?

Mr. MacNaught: Mr. Chairman, I believe the hon. member is referring to the belugas which are caught in Hudson bay. At this time the regulations of the whaling commission do not extend to belugas, and for that reason they do not come within the statistics I furnished.

Mr. Knowles: I am sure hon. members know the answer, but it might be well to have the information on record. Therefore I gladly give the parliamentary assistant a chance to explain the relationship between whales and belugas.

Mr. Weir: Ask the hon. member for Dauphin.

Mr. MacNaught: It is a scientific explanation, and I am afraid any attempt I would make to give it would not be of much help. There is an argument, however, I believe to the effect that the beluga belongs to the porpoise rather than the whale family. Perhaps the hon. member for Dauphin would tell us.

Mr. Ward: What the parliamentary assistant has said is correct. The beluga is not a whale, and does not come under the international whaling agreement. The differentiation is that the whale has two blow holes in his head whereas the porpoise or the beluga as