

Hon. Mr. McINNES (B.C.)—While I admit that free trade is a very important subject, yet the question I am discussing is an exceedingly important one to the Pacific province. The article is entitled: "Called a Babbling Ass." This is the expression I referred to a moment ago—"that babbling ass should be silenced," was what Captain J. C. Cox said. This Captain Cox, I might inform the House, is the President of the Sealing Association of the province of British Columbia, a man who has been in the business from its earliest history, and a man who is thoroughly conversant with every phase of the industry. He applies that term to Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper. I do not sympathize with Captain Cox, when he applies the expression "Babbling Ass" to the young Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, for I claim that he has few superiors in the House of Commons either in point of intellect or ability. He is a man whom I have always held in the highest estimation, and as far as ability is concerned I am not afraid to say that, in my estimation at least, he stands not only equal to, but superior to his talented dad, and that is saying a good deal.

CALLED "A BABBLING ASS."

WHAT SEALING MEN THINK OF SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER, K.C.M.G., AND HIS REMARKABLE PROPHECY—HIS STATEMENTS IF BELIEVED WILL GRIEVOUSLY AFFECT PRICES AT THE OCTOBER SALES IN LONDON—WHERE THEY ARE UNTRUE.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K. C. M. G., was interviewed at Ottawa yesterday by the *Colonist's* representative at the capital and is quoted as saying that "the British side of the arbitration had to fight hard to secure permission for pelagic sealing, and they did well to secure the regulations they did. At the same time," he added, "they are not my ideas of what the regulations should be, even as a means of preserving seals. They are neither in the interests of the United States or Canada in that respect, and, mark my words, next year's catch of British vessels will be the largest in the history of pelagic sealing. That this great slaughter will occur at a time when it may be most destructive to the seal species will be the fault of the regulations."

This choice morsel of intelligence was very pleasantly received by the sealers this morning. "That babbling ass should be silenced," was what Capt. J. G. Cox said. "His prophecy is a falsehood pure and simple, and can have but effect if his words bear any weight in London. It will injure the price of our skins taken this year. We have a good catch, probably the last we will ever make, and have counted on getting a fair price for it. The skins are not sold yet, most of them being now en route to London for the October sales, and if it is believed there will be any kind of a catch next year prices will be grievously affected. Here young

Tupper says next year there will be "a great slaughter," and the catch will be the largest in the history of pelagic sealing. He must have known this to be false when he uttered it. Anybody who has read the regulations knows that it will be impossible. Why, I tell you that the things we fear the most will be the rules made at Ottawa for carrying out the Paris regulations. Ignorance may lead them to bind us both hand and foot. I believe now sincerely that the future of the industry is destroyed. We may be able to do something in the first season ending June 1st, but I would not send a white crew out after Aug. 31st. They can get no seals outside of the sea, and cannot enter it. The Japan sea offers little relief. The hunting grounds are small and too many schooners render it unprofitable. This year only about nine schooners made good catches there. You see, the season is longer, and it takes a better catch than on this side to equalize the expenses."

"As to the scheme to memorialize the government to purchase our vessels and outfits I do not think there is much in it. What can they expect from a government not in sympathy with them. The government, in full possession of all the facts, has placed us in this predicament. What nonsense to expect them to extricate us. And then the situation is no darker than when, early in the dispute, our vessels were seized and confiscated and our men thrust into jail.

"A great deal has been said to the effect that the regulations cannot be enforced and that it would take an 'Armada' to do so. This is all wrong. The captains will be required to keep a carefully prepared log showing the number and sex of the seals killed, with the place they were taken. Now with 25 men on a schooner it will be out of the question to do anything wrong, for the licenses will be more valuable than the schooner. And then, again, as they have gone thus far they can name a dozen points of rendezvous on the coast and make the schooners report when the close season arrives."

Capt. Cox uttered the sentiments of a dozen others in what he said as to the asinine genius of young Mr. Tupper.

Hon. Mr. McKAY—I understood that Capt. Cox denied ever having had that interview.

Hon. Mr. McINNES (B.C.)—I saw that statement made some time afterwards, but it is only too true that he did have such an interview, and expressed himself in the manner I have mentioned. Probably he got fresh light on the subject and thought it was not good policy for him to reiterate such views in public. I believe firmly that the hon. gentlemen who represented Canada at that arbitration, namely, the right honourable the Premier of this country, and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Dr. Dawson, and the learned Dr. Robinson, the lawyer, did everything that lay in their power for Canada, yet it is my firm conviction that