

of February, 1931, has been signed by Albania, Germany, the United States, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Colombia, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Norway, The Netherlands, Poland, Roumania, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Turkey and Yugoslavia, and ratification has been completed by the United Kingdom, South Africa, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, and Yugoslavia. Brazil, Egypt, Nicaragua, Monaco, Sudan and Ecuador, which were not signatories to the original convention have acceded to its provisions. The convention came into force on the sixteenth day of January of this year.

The only other point I assume upon which the members of this house would like to be advised is what the provisions are with respect to enforcement, restrictions and the prohibitions. The convention contemplates that each national will take adequate steps to see that the convention to which it has become a party is duly and properly enforced. So far as we in Canada are concerned, in 1933, I think we had four whaling vessels on our registry engaged in the destruction of whales, and they operated entirely on the west coast of Canada, the headquarters being in the Queen Charlotte islands. The total number of whales that were taken during that period amounted to 209 in the last season for which we have a record in the north Pacific waters, and 509,000 gallons of whale oil were secured. So far as we are concerned the regulations and prohibitions with respect to some species of whales are not difficult of enforcement. The provisions of our Fisheries Act, the Department of Justice advises, by sections 7, 8, 9, 34 and 52, confer sufficient authority upon the government to carry into effect the obligations and responsibilities that rest upon this country by reason of the convention.

I do not think that any good purpose would be served by a more lengthy statement of what the objects of the convention are. I trust that they are such as will appeal to the members of this house as eminently proper in the premises and that there will be no difficulty in adopting the resolution which aims at the preservation of the whales not only for industrial purposes, because whale oil is a very valuable product, but also to prevent a surplus of the oil being placed upon the markets of the world with a corresponding destruction of prices. I therefore move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by Mr. Guthrie, the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. JEAN FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, here we are legislating about whales. This is the new social order. In the time of the prophet whales belonged to the old order, but the old order has gone and whales went with them. Evidently the Prime Minister wants the old order restored, so now he proposes legislation with regard to whales. Most ridiculous, Mr. Speaker! Have we not other things to discuss in the House of Commons that we must be considering whales for human food? Our farmers complain that they cannot sell their potatoes, their cattle and other produce that they grow on their farms, and now we are to use whales for human food, and that is proposed by the right hon. the Prime Minister of Canada. Enough of that, Mr. Speaker. It is most foolish and most ridiculous.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member should not refer to remarks made by the Prime Minister on a motion for the ratification of a convention agreed upon by various nations of the world as most foolish, and I would ask him not to do it.

Mr. POULIOT: I accept your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and I withdraw what has been said if it is not within the rules of the house. As I was saying, in these times of distress our farmers complain that they cannot sell their products, and here we are to raise whales on a very large scale, because whales are large fish. I wonder if the dredging around the island of the Postmaster General was done to prepare for whales coming there. It is most extraordinary. We have had legislation about migratory birds, and now we are to have legislation about whales. Who could believe it if it were not printed on the records of this house? But this convention about whales is printed on the official records of parliament and it is proposed by the Prime Minister unless my eyes and ears have deceived me. I cannot conceive but that it will be received with a general roar of laughter throughout the country. Let us have a piece of whale steak for a sandwich, and whale hot dogs. It is most extraordinary. I believe, Mr. Speaker, I am within the rules of the house in stating that it is extraordinary. I shall not use any other expression though I find many on my lips to describe this legislation, but I want to keep within the rules of the house. I wonder if the Prime Minister will not give us recipes for the eating of whale. Should we take H.P. sauce with it or ketchup or salt and pepper or mustard, English or French? I should like the Prime Minister, who is the chef of this party, to give us some recipes for eating whale. One