

MR. COAKER'S GREAT SPEECH DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON TUESDAY

(Continued from page 2)
 between St. John's, Halifax and New York. Steamers are in constant demand on the freight routes, and of my own knowledge I know that at New York there are eight steamer-loads of freight awaiting shipment to this port. But the Bowings took that steamer off the route because they thought the Florizel could grab fifty or sixty thousand seals this season. I say, "cut out the whole thing." If steel ships are to engage in the seal-fishery don't permit them to be larger than the "Sagona." Where will we secure such ships you ask? What use can they be put to in the trade after the sealing voyage is over? I do not think the "Sagona" pays during the summer under normal conditions; but the day will come when you will have to make another coastal contract for the North and another for the West—there should now be two steamers in place of the "Prospero"—one leaving every week. The same could apply West. Here would be use for four steamers, and three of them could be sent to the seal-fishery in the winter, and thus made to pay very well. But supposing you do not get these steamers, suppose they could not be made a paying venture, we can get back to the old sailing vessels type and fit them with motor engines. If the steamers do not go to the seal-fishery, the wooden ships can do so. The wooden steamers will not be replaced by vessels of their type, and we will soon have to fall back on the sailing vessels. These wooden vessels will not cost very much more to fit out, and the sealers will get a larger proportion of the voyage. I feel sure the day is not very far off when you will see a fleet of sailing vessels go to the seal-fishery again. We intend to build ten of these vessels to engage in the Brazilian trade, and they can also be used for the seal-fishery in the winter. If they can be used that way far greater returns will be obtained from the sealing voyage.

that business—collecting fish around that coast, etc. Conditions under which the Labrador fishery is at present carried on must be improved for the sake of the industry itself, but more particularly for the sake of the men engaged therein. You will not get Conception Bay men to go down there and labor under the old system as they did in the past. The equipment of these people must be considered and the best appliances supplied to them. You must fit these men out with trawls and with all the other facilities for the successful prosecution of their avocation. It is absolutely necessary that you supply the hook and liners and trawlers with a plentiful supply of bait; and in a word, let nothing remain undone that would contribute to the successful prosecution of this great industry. Follow this advice, supply these fishery requisites, be prompt in your rectification of existing evils which are draining the life-blood from that once profitable factor in the fisheries, conform to the wishes of the people in this respect, and tangible, far-reaching benefits will accrue, greater returns from this industry will follow, and you will have accomplished two great things—the enhancement of this great fishery, and the betterment (through the modernizing of the methods under which they labor) of the people who engage in it. I would not like to see anything done to bar 25-ton boats from this fishery, because in the years to come we ought to be able to find lots of use for such boats on the Labrador.

tonnage situation generally no longer exists and most of the difficulties have been surmounted—for instance steps have been taken to secure stocks of coal, and to ensure supply of salt, flour and seeds; but there is one phase of the situation that seems to have been forgotten—the marketing of our fish in the Fall. I very much doubt if you are going to find it an easy matter to arrange for the transportation in the autumn. I endorse Dr. Lloyd's remarks in regard to these profits, to which I have just referred. Let the Minister of Finance and Customs bring down a budget and take 50% off the \$600,000 profits. If he does that we will back him up. The amount thus realized may be used for the establishment of bait depots. I understand the Treasury is, at the present time, overflowing with milk and honey. I am glad that it is so; and I am glad that the revenue is showing up so well. But I do not anticipate that the prosperity so apparent in 1915 will be in evidence in 1916.

The Price of Fish and Food Stuffs in 1916.
 Our fishermen will not make so much out of the fishery in 1916 as they did in 1915, besides the cost of necessary supplies will have gone up; flour will advance from \$1 to \$1.05 on the price per barrel, and there may be an increase of \$1 on a hhd. of salt. Then, again, the price of fish is not going to keep up, we will get less for our fish the coming Fall if the present freight rates prevail. We are not going to get \$7.60 for our fish next autumn—but we may get \$7. Today fish is costing \$1 more per qtl. to export than it did when fish was bought last year. Fish purchasers who bought 100,000 qtls. of fish last winter and stored it, are losing \$100,000 on freights—a loss they did not anticipate when they bought that fish in October or November. That is a serious problem. The fish-buyer cannot get the extra freight value from the foreign market, therefore, if conditions continue, the value to our fishermen the coming Fall will be that much less.

The Lobster Fishery is Poorly Handled.
 Our friend Mr. Walsh, member for Placentia, has congratulated the Government and Mr. Deo on the splendid results of their endeavours to save the lobster fishery. I am sorry I cannot endorse his remarks. The lobster fishery has gone from bad to worse, and nothing the Government or Mr. Deo can do on the lines pursued by them at present can save it. The only one way to prevent the col-

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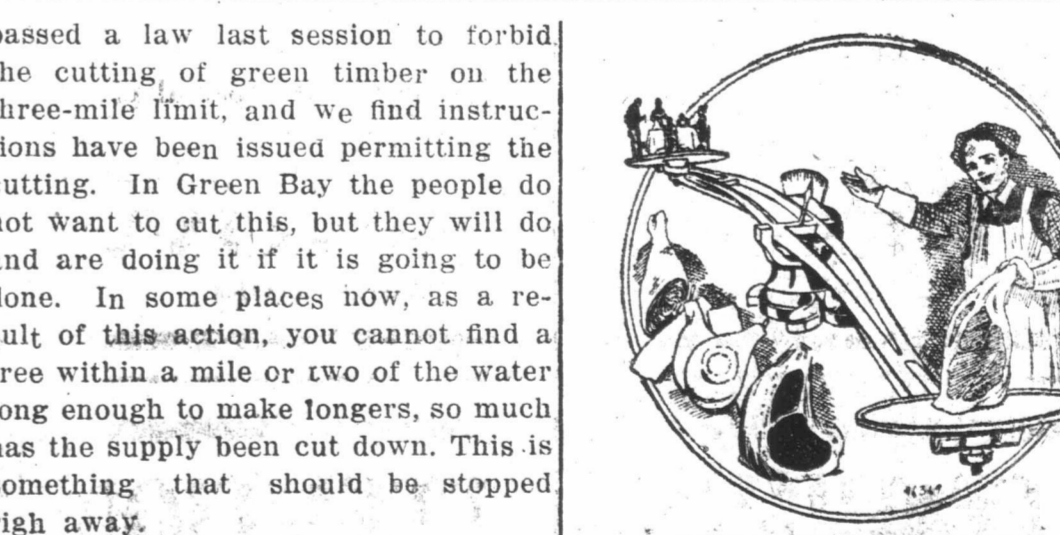
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lapse of this industry and to restore it—and that is by adopting a close season. That is what should have been done last year. You had your choice of doing this when the war broke out, because the prices fell from \$25 to \$12 per case! Last year only 6,000 cases of lobsters were taken. At \$15 per case, this represents \$90,000; and for the sake of the industry we could easily do without that amount. Close down this fishery for a time and then we will get some decent returns, but if you are going to expect the fishermen to catch the she lobsters and throw them away you are making a mistake. I am glad to see that very few lobsters were canned in Green Bay and other places North last year. I expect that in five years time the people North will reap great benefits from their action, in not engaging in this fishery the past year, and I trust also, the coming season.

The System of Reporting Debates
 I wish to congratulate the Government upon the new system of reporting. I was pleased to-day to find that a report of the few words I uttered yesterday were laid on my desk to-day. For two years we have strongly advocated a change in reporting the proceedings of this House, and I am pleased to find our efforts crowned with success. I trust the good work commenced will continue throughout the season and all will endeavour to do their best to carry out the improvements. If more money is needed to ensure complete success, it should be granted. The old system was but a waste of money. The things I pointed out to you this afternoon can all be accomplished if you put the same energy and spirit in your endeavour to grapple with them as you have done in regard to this reporting business.

In Canada the report of the previous day are on the members desks by 10 a.m. They change reporters there every ten minutes, which gives considerable time to rewrite. Here we are now changing reporters every fifteen minutes; if this is possible, then it is all right, but if ten minutes reporting would be better, have it by all means. If you have to spend a thousand dollars more, spend it as long as you get value for your money.

Another matter I want to refer to is that of printing the debates. At the present time you are paying two papers to do this. I saw in Saturday morning's "News" the official record of Thursday, and the same appeared in the "Herald." If both papers must have a share of the plunder, let some arrangement be made for alternate reporting and don't make yourselves ridiculous by having the same matter published twice.

Poor Condition of Opposition Rooms
 There is another matter I wish to call the attention of the Prime Minister to, and this is a matter which I feel quite sure will have his immediate attention. That is the condition of the Opposition rooms down stairs. They have now been for a long time in a miserable condition, and I am quite sure the Prime Minister will have them fixed up. Nobody seems to have dared to ask to have them improved; with the result that at the present time they are not fit to be attached to the Poorhouse, and I believe even the Poorhouse must be more comfortable. They are certainly in a poor condition. There is no lavatory accommodation connected with it. I think this is a matter which ought to be of very great interest to the Government, as they will undoubtedly be the next occupants of that chamber. This, then, is a remarkable chance for them to fit up a nice place for themselves. If I were leader of the House, I would not resign before submitting Opposition members to such treatment. It wouldn't be a hard job to find a room large enough for the next Party in Opposition, because there will be very few of you returned, nevertheless, give attention to the matter for the present room is too bad to be longer tolerated.

Changes Needed in Our Herring Fishery
 I am very much interested in the petition which was presented here to-day by my friend, Mr. Stone, and hope

that the matter will have the immediate attention of the Fishery Board. That Board ought to remedy this herring business by having but one class of herring exported. At New York I found our best herring selling at \$15 per barrel, yet thousands of barrels of our herring are selling at \$6 or \$7 per barrel, and unsaleable at that price. Newfoundland herring has a poor, very poor name in the markets, and something ought to be done at once to improve the cure. You ought to examine every barrel that goes out, and refuse to allow a man to export inferior herring. If he wants to pack number two, make him mark it number two; and if we want and insist in filling up the centre of the barrel with poor quality fish, refuse to allow him to export at all. We have a great heritage in this fishery, and it is up to us to keep it and make it as valuable as possible. We cannot be too careful of this industry. An example occurred just last year. There were some barrels of herring north which could not be sold. A representative of some American firm bought them and exported them to New York, where they were left to rot. Why let these men do that with our fish. They are destroying our reputation it ever had. We ought to have a commission to look into this matter, and the question ought to be very easily settled by establishing an inspection and treating it the same as it is treated in Norway and Scotland. A commission, such I am thinking of would remedy this matter, and insure honest treatment to the buyer and to the seller alike. Have every barrel marked and refuse to permit other than that marked Government Brand to be exported. A measure like this was introduced in Nova Scotia last year, and worked well. If you spent one-fifth of the money you have spent on your railways in the development of the Fisheries of the Colony, the results would have added 100 per cent. to the value of the Fisheries.