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Butter and Cheese Sales' Act. This Act, designed to prohibit improper speculation in the sale of butter and cheese, received its first reading on the 17th inst. The crime and its punishment is thus set forth in section 3 of the Bill:—

"Every one who, by himself or through the agency of another person, sells, or offers to sell, or agrees to sell, or agrees to offer to sell, any butter or cheese which at the time such sale, offer or agreement is made, has not been manufactured and is not his property or the property of some person for whom he is duly authorized to act, is guilty of an offence, and liable, on summary conviction, to the following penalties:

For a first offence, to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for not more than three months, or to both such fine and imprisonment;

For a second, and any subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for not more than six months, or to both such fine and imprisonment."

An exception is made in the case of any person who is duly authorized to act for those who supply milk to any dairy or butter or cheese factory. Such person may sell or agree to sell butter or cheese to be manufactured at such dairy or factory.

The entire purpose of the Act would seem to be the prevention of speculation in butter and cheese. We do not dispute the necessity for special legislation to protect those engaged in this very large and important business; but we cannot quite understand why the Act was not made to include other articles in which it is equally sinful and wrong to speculate.

An Excellent Senate Bill. The Hon. Mr. Power obtained the first reading on the 17th inst. for an Act well calculated to better secure the safety of fishermen. The preamble of the Bill reads as follows:—

1. No dory, flat, whaler or other boat whatsoever shall be launched or set out from any vessel engaged in deep-sea or Bank fishing for the purpose of fishing with hooks and lines, trawls or other similar appliances, or with intent that the same shall be used in so fishing, or for the purpose of examining trawls, set lines or other similar appliances for fishing, unless there is placed in such boat and retained therein dur-

ing absence from such vessel an accurate and serviceable mariners' compass, and unless there is placed in such boat at least two quarts of drinking water and two pounds of solid food for each man of the crew of such boat:

2. The owner of such vessel shall supply her at the commencement of her voyage with as many serviceable compasses as she carries boats, in addition to the vessel's compass, and also with the necessary utensils for holding water and with a fog-horn or trumpet.

If the fishermen in whose interest this excellent Bill has been introduced by Senator Power will report the owner of any fishing vessel who fails to perform the duty imposed upon him by this addition to the Fisheries' Act, much protection will be afforded to the hardy men who every season face the perils inseparable from deep-sea fishing.

Only those who are familiar with the stories of exposure and death common in so many of the fishing villages on the coast of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island can realize how much this useful Act was wanted.

With every dory launched on the Grand Banks, or elsewhere, provisioned and carrying a compass, the brave fellows who man the fishing fleet of Canada will have a fair fight for life when separated from their vessels by fog or gale. The new Act will appeal strongly to the wives and children of fishermen, and we trust the men will see that the master of any vessel who fails to comply with the provisions of this excellent Bill is duly punished.

Such a story of piteous suffering and death as that which comes to us from the ice-fields of Newfoundland will make Senator Power's bill an eloquent appeal on behalf of our fishermen. The details of the sad loss of the crew of the sealing steamer "Greenland" enable us to judge of the fate of the fishermen so frequently reported by the schooners of Gloucester and Nova Scotia as "missing." There is no need for any picture of what becomes of those whose names serve to fill the yearly death list of the Gloucester fishing fleet. Adrift in dories, without food, water or compass, they slowly perish of thirst, starvation and exposure, or are run down by one of the numerous Atlantic steamers.