

for some time past and fearing by that means the fishery might be rendered useless to all parties, if not entirely ruined, I have, by the advice of His Majesty's Council, passed an Act for the better regulation of it, which will be herewith transmitted to Your Lordship, that I may know His Majesty's pleasure concerning it."

So far as I can learn this was the first legislation of the new government. I suspect that His Excellency, the Governor, himself was "His Majesty's Council," and that it was his own advice upon which he acted.

Lord Hillsborough, in his reply, dated Whitehall, 2nd January, 1771, says:

"The putting a stop to these practices which must have the effect to destroy the Sea Cow Fishery, appears to have been a very proper object of your immediate attention and if the licenses required to be taken out by persons carrying on that fishery are not made to operate as a burden upon this useful branch of commerce, I do not see, at present, any objections to the regulations prescribed by your ordinance, but as this is a matter upon which the heads of trade must be consulted, I have received the King's commands to transmit the ordinance to them for their consideration."

I have no copy of the Ordinance itself.

These efforts proved unavailing. The fishermen and others quickly exterminated the herds, so thoroughly that not one has been seen or heard of in these waters within the memory of the "oldest inhabitant." It is an illustration of the old story of "killing the goose," just as fishermen and some traders whose real interest it is now-a-days to preserve the lobster and oyster fisheries, seem to be the most determined, despite all law and common sense, to destroy them.

Though the sea-cow is no longer found on our shores, it has left its name on the nomenclature of the country. In the western part of this province we have "Sea-Cow Pond." On the right hand, as we make Summerside Harbor, "Sea-