

SPEECH OF HON. M. P. GIBBS ON THE SEALING BILL

(Continued from page 2)
The Matter Of Insurance For Any Crew.

The next Section empowers the Governor-in-Council after taking steps to ascertain the views of the owner and crew of the ship to approve any scheme of insurance for the crew of any ship, and provides compensation not less favourable to sealers and their dependents than that provided for in Section 19. Where the majority of sealers, and where the scheme is applicable, are in favour of it, it empowers the owner to contract with any of the sealers employed by him that the provisions of such scheme shall be substituted for the provisions of this Act. Some may see in the provisions of this bill an interference with the rights of capital. This I deny. There is no attempt whatever to interfere with its legitimate use and investment, but it does interfere to the extent of protecting the lives of those who man the sealing fleet, and also to conserve and protect the industry. There can be no doubt, whatever, that the industry is declining because of our destructive methods in its prosecution, and because of these facts and others that we know of, that legislation prohibiting the sending of powerful ships to the seal fishery is imperative.

We Should Avail Of Present Opportunity To Protect The Herd.

When sail only was used, the catch was double that of for some years past, which proves that even with the advantages of steam, we cannot bring into port but half the number formerly killed. Why? Because the herd is becoming depleted. In the light of these facts, we should ask ourselves the question, What are the causes? They point to this that if we permit the powerful coast-going ship to continue in the prosecution of the seal fishery, in a very short time there will be a very limited number of seals. The ship that can face almost any weather conditions and search the ice floes for the herd is not the type we want, because very few will escape, and so long as there is a chance of profit being made, the

destructive methods of the past will be employed, unless we avail of the opportunity now afforded. We are not interfering with any vested rights because the steel steamer sealing fleet has passed into other hands and is employed at other work. Now, then, is our opportunity for conserving and protecting the industry. We have, strictly speaking, no right to destroy by our methods of carrying on this industry, the gifts of nature. The seal fishery is one of them. It belongs not to this generation solely, but to future ones as well. Others will come after us, and we must not destroy the portion of their heritage that belongs to them.

The Danger Of Placing The Fishery In The Hands Of A Few.

Except we limit the tonnage of vessels that may engage in this industry, you may have in the future large and more powerful type of sealing steamers prosecuting the seal fishery than in the past. In the hands of a few will be placed the control of the industry, because of the greater amount of capital required. The tendency of modern industrialism is the centralization of financial power, which enables the formation of trust companies and other such combinations of the few. By this means the number of employers are diminished; trade, manufacture, and other forms of industry have fallen into the hands of the few and as a result they become too rich and the rest of humanity sink to the level of the too poor, with its other attendant evils. Men and women, boys and girls of tender ages, are waiting to be hired as slaves, to toil in stifling factories and sweat shops. This form of industrial expansion is commencing to rear its head in our midst, and is it desirable that we should have colossal wealth on the one side and abject poverty on the other. Some of the provisions of the bill aim at preventing this from happening in the sealing industry, and to make it possible for a man of limited means to engage in it, but if they have to face the competition of the steamers costing many hundred thousand dollars, he cannot, and will

not, be able to do so. Many a man of limited capital has started a business enterprise, only to find that he could not compete with this centralization of the financial power, and as a result he finds himself very soon powerless, financially, in consequence. Some may argue that this centralization I have referred to works for efficiency. True, it does, from the standpoint of those who possess the power, but it means to the many starvation wages, and when they can no longer work, the Poor House and an old age of abject poverty.

Suppose The Codfishery Was Controlled In A Similar Manner

The ideal country is where the people are neither too rich nor too poor. The greater the number of moderate fortunes in a country, the greater will be its stability. Fortunately for us in this country there is perhaps a greater distribution of wealth than can be found elsewhere, because we have such a large number of people who are independent planters carrying on their own fishing operations, the servant of no master. Suppose, however, the codfishing industry were controlled or concentrated in the hands of a few, and the many had to seek employment at it from them, would we have the same prosperity among our people? Would we have that distribution of wealth I have referred to? We would not. Why? Because the fisherman would be, because of his necessities, forced to bid against his neighbour for employment at the fishery, owing to the number of employers being limited. Where you have hundreds seeking to employ fishermen, employers competing with one another to get the necessary help to carry on the industry, you would have the fishermen competing with one another with the attendant consequences, we see elsewhere. We passed a law preventing the use of steamers from engaging in the prosecution of the Labrador cod fishery. Why? Because, if we did not it would sound the death knell of the independent planter and fisherman. They would not be able to compete with large aggregations of capital and mechanical power, which cost so much to obtain. It would not alone spell the ruin of the individual fisherman on the Labrador, but possibly that of the industry as well.

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The Dardanelles Are for Russia

Duma is Told by Professor Miliukoff, Liberal Leader, That the Allies Are in Complete Agreement on the Subject

PETROGRAD, May 8. (Correspondence of The Associated Press)—There is no longer any doubt in the public mind here that the Allies reached a complete agreement some time ago to the effect that in case the Entente Powers are victorious Russia is to have possession of the Dardanelles after the war. Professor Miliukoff, the Liberal leader, speaking in the Duma this week, made the assurance of such an agreement definite when he said: "The end of March, 1915, is a date which is well worthy of remembrance by the Russian people. That is the date when a definite agreement was reached between us and our allies regarding the future of the Dardanelles."

Miliukoff is the creator of the "progressive bloc," the greatest force in Russian politics to-day, and is closely affiliated with the Foreign Office. In the course of his speech, which was reported verbatim in all the Petrograd newspapers, he said: "Our Russian interest in this war can be defined very briefly: We need an outlet to a free sea. We did not begin the war for this; but without it we shall not end it. The annexation of the Dardanelles is in no way an attempt to enlarge the Russian frontiers. Russia is big enough, and has no need for new territories. But her complete development without an outlet to a free sea cannot possibly be realized. In our time, when the old idea of continentalism is dead, when international relations demanding a seaway have become the order of the day, the State without such communications is an organism without the necessary organs."

"You can say to me, 'If Turkey had been wiser we could not possibly then have realized this aim. We would have had to wait.' But when Liman von Sanders entered Constantinople, when the Turkish War Minister became the servant of Germany and the Turkish fleet became controlled by the Germans, the whole situation changed. We fully realize what is the plan of Germany, and for what she is carrying on this whole war. It is clear to everybody that in the case of victory Germany would create in Europe a central state and would capture or subjugate Turkey economically and then politically. Berlin to Bagdad—that is the German idea; and since it has been created we have no other choice. The question now is not whether the straits will become Russian or remain Turkish; the question is whether they will become Russian or will remain German."

"We must make no mistake. The question which we are now deciding will probably be decided forever, but there will scarcely ever be such favorable conditions as there are now. The chief of these conditions is the attitude of our allies towards our national problem. Berlin to Bagdad is a real danger, not only for us, but for Great Britain, with India and Egypt, and for France, with her prospects in Syria. On the basis of this real danger and agreement has become possible between powers which for centuries were suspicious of each other."

No Waste.
"I didn't know your little boy had to wear glasses."
"Well, y'know, he's not obliged to but they were a good pair of poor dear Emory's, and I thought it such a pity to waste 'em."

abandoned an offensive that had been built upon so much would be certain to have a disagreeable effect upon public sentiment. Perhaps it will be allowed to flatten out very gradually, if the enemy will allow it. The enemy may not. There are already signs that the offensive at Verdun may pass to French hands.

Germany Cannot Replenish Army The Allies Can

Hard on the heels of the first announcement that Russian troops had appeared in France comes news of the arrival of a second contingent in the same way. Repletions may be expected, as fast as Anglo-French industrial resources are found equal to the task of clothing and equipping the Czar's contribution of human material. German comment on this unexpected addition to the strength of the enemy on the western front quite misses the point, or pretends to do so. From the fact that the French have called on Russia for men it is inferred that their losses at Verdun have been so great as perceptibly to diminish their man power. That might be true and still there would be thin comfort in it. From what source can Germany replenish her man power or make good the greater loss she has suffered at Verdun?

If the German General Staff hoped by continuous hammer blows at Verdun ultimately to exhaust the defence, and oblige the French Staff either to yield there or weaken its lines at other points, it must now be disappointed. Against the French since the Germans have gained a little more than 100 square miles of strategic ground, including one outstanding fort in two months; and now that the cost of maintaining this gallant defence is being made up in the form of Russia accessions it cannot be hoped on the German side that the resistance will be less. It is likelier to be more. Time again has baffled Germany and strengthened her enemies. The German General Staff could hardly have expected on Feb. 21, when launching the attack on Verdun, that at the end of April, having advanced less than five miles on the road to Paris it would begin to meet Russian troops. The dilemma now may be not how to take Verdun, but how to discontinue trying. Definitely to

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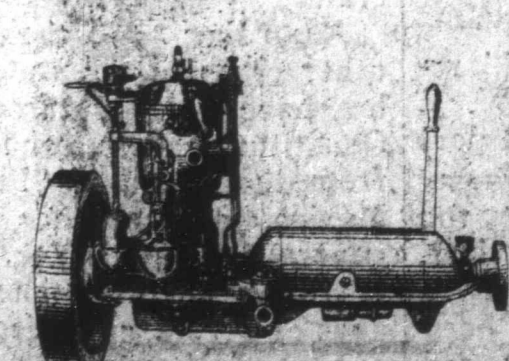
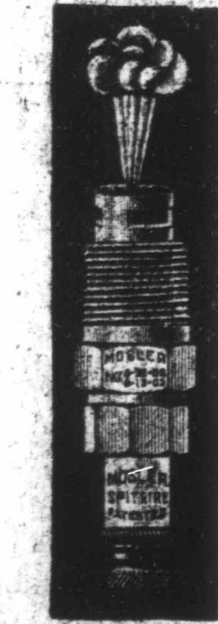
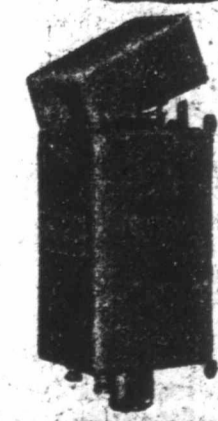
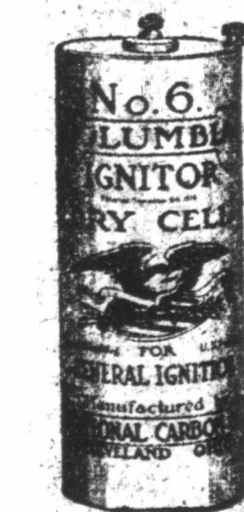
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