

American people. Although we are supposed to have a fixed interest in the seals, we get only a small proportion—I think it is one-fifth—of the value of the seals killed, which in the year covered by the report in my hands came to only \$73,000. What did the Department of Marine and Fisheries report concerning the seals? There are in this report of about 300 pages but five words chronicling the fact that our rake-off from Washington on the seals was \$73,000.

Would anyone be surprised that there should prevail in British Columbia the feeling that our fisheries, constituting half of the entire fisheries of Canada in value, are not receiving proper attention? If I am permitted, I shall ask for certain specific information later. That is all I have to say at present.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: From the remarks of my honourable friend I gather that his indictment of the Department is based on its alleged dilatoriness. It does not seem to me that I can draw the conclusion that the honourable gentleman is opposed to this convention.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: No, certainly not.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Then it is a question concerning the Department's administration of the important fisheries on the Pacific coast.

I want to say that for a number of years I was in the same state of mind as my honourable friend. I remember meeting the right honourable the junior member for Ottawa (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster) in London about twenty years ago and telling him of impressions I had gathered during my first twenty-five years' experience in public affairs. From 1878 to 1896 my party was in opposition, and I spent those eighteen years in criticizing the Conservative administration or listening to criticism—pretty severe at times—of its actions. I had really come to believe that I came of a better clay. To my mind there was some inferiority in the Tory party, for I had never heard a good word uttered in their favour in my vicinity, nor read it in the press. I was telling my right honourable friend that after ten years of Liberal administration I was beginning to regard with more consideration and esteem my political opponents, who had borne the responsibility of office during the previous eighteen years. My honourable friend from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Taylor), if I am not mistaken, is a journalist, and has had a very brilliant career as such in the East as well as in the West. His mind is probably biased, as mine

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was during the eighteen years I have referred to, and he is critical.

Criticism is very much easier than action. My honourable friend complains of dilatoriness in the administration of the treaty and thinks that we have been negligent of the interests of Canada in this respect; but he must not lose sight of the fact that these fisheries are on the high seas and do not belong exclusively to Canada. He must remember that citizens of the United States have the right to fish in these areas and that consequently, if something has to be done in connection with the control of these fisheries, it can be done only by the joint action of the Government of this country and the Government of the United States. I do not think the present Government of Canada can be accused of subserviency to Washington in entering into an agreement with the United States for the purpose of protecting these fisheries. As to the delays of which my honourable friend complains, if he were absolutely au fait he would probably recognize that they are due to dilatoriness on the part of the United States. Very often during my occupancy of my present position I have found upon meeting officials of various departments, in committee, that suspicions and criticisms were groundless. As the subject now under consideration is a very broad and important one, I would suggest to my honourable friend that next session we can take steps to investigate the operations of the Fisheries Department; and I am convinced that when we meet face to face the men who are responsible for the administration of this Department we shall judge them less severely than my honourable friend has done.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: I understood that we were to have an opportunity of getting some information about several proposals. I would ask, for instance, what has been done under article 4 of the treaty.

The High Contracting Parties agree to enact and enforce such legislation as may be necessary to make effective the provisions of this Convention and any regulation adopted thereunder, with appropriate penalties for violations thereof.

Has that been done? And if so, how and where may we find it?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: In 13-14 George V, Chapter 61, an Act for the Protection of the Northern Pacific Halibut Fishery.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: That provides the regulations and the penalties, does it?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes.