

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I was not trying to remove my difficulty, I was trying to give the hon. gentleman information.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). He has only removed the difficulty in which he is placed one step further back, for the hon. gentleman had before him a question that should be referred to the arbitration.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman will understand that the British Government, and not the Canadian Government, made the treaty, and drew the terms of the reference.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I think we all understand that the British Government sought to give effect to the views of the Canadian Government in the matter.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That was not the statement, and is not correct.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Then the hon. gentleman would lead the House to suppose that in this matter of the Behring Sea, the Government of Canada were unwilling parties to the arbitration.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have no hesitation in saying that I believe that if the Canadian Government had been in a position to draw that treaty, that treaty would not have been drawn as it was. It was a treaty made of necessity by Great Britain.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). The contention of the hon. gentleman is that the British Government blundered, and that by their blunder the Canadian Government suffered loss, that an animal that is a nuisance in the northern Pacific waters has been enjoying care and protection instead of being exterminated, and that the treaty and the regulations by which that special care and attention have been extended to the fur seals in the northern Pacific waters, is an arrangement to which the Canadian Government were unwilling parties. Well, Sir, I have read with a good deal of care and with a good deal of interest the discussion on that subject; I have read with a great deal of interest the legal and historical information collected with regard to that subject. I think that it indicated a good deal of industry and judgment in the collection of the evidence and in the arrangement of the material, but I do not find that the Canadian Government contended that these animals were a nuisance and that there ought to have been no care for their protection.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will the hon. gentleman allow me, because he is entering upon a branch of the matter to which he certainly did not refer in his remarks on his motion, and to which I therefore did not pay any attention? The hon. gentleman must not distort my argument. I did not argue that the fur seal was a

nuisance in Pacific waters. I said that there, under the laws of nature, there was an extraordinary abundance of fish, and that for a great number of years the fish and the seals had existed there together and increased. But I said there was great doubt, and perhaps more than doubt, that if you introduced into the Atlantic waters, which are not supplied, in my opinion, with such an amount of fish, such a predaceous animal as the fur seal, the condition of things there being entirely different, you might bring about the extinction of a most valuable fishery, and the fur seal might in those waters become a nuisance, and I said that would be a policy I would not take the responsibility of adopting. I did not argue that the fur seals, under present conditions, were a nuisance in the Pacific waters.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I am not saying that the hon. gentleman did argue that the fur seal was a nuisance. But he stated, in speaking of the habits of the seal, that they were destructive, and that those predaceous habits made it an animal, the preservation of which was scarcely consistent with the due protection of the fisheries. The hon. gentleman will remember, in the discussion upon the fur-bearing seals of the Pacific Ocean before the arbitrators, that the possibility of their extinction was pressed very strongly by the American representatives upon the Board. The hon. gentleman will himself admit that there would be no great difficulty in exterminating the whole fur-bearing seals of the Pacific. If to-morrow there was a possibility of the fur-bearing seal, in consequence of its destructive habits, exterminating or seriously injuring the fisheries upon the Pacific coast, there would be no difficulty within five years, with the consent of the American Government, in completely exterminating them. Their numbers are very greatly diminished already. And what I wish to point out to the hon. gentleman is this: that if there was a prospect of the fur seal seriously injuring any of our fisheries in the Atlantic, there would be no difficulty in getting rid of them, looking at what was said before the Board of Arbitrators, and what the hon. gentleman and his friends, with all their industry and care, were unable successfully to combat.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Is the hon. gentleman aware that some countries are trying to exterminate and slaughter the seal, and have not succeeded, by giving bounty for every seal taken? Norway is doing that.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). They were very numerous on the coast of Scotland at one time, and they are not to-day.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Norway is trying to exterminate them.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Norway has very numerous islands on its coasts which are not always accessible, owing to the tides