

it said, made a vigorous effort to meet the situation and to assist the fishermen over the gap between seasons. But I have a certificate audited by a firm of auditors showing that the loss was very substantial; in fact, as I said, it ran to about \$2 a ton.

The principle of bonusing cannot be denied, because we have bonuses on wheat and coal, and already to-day we have had suggestions that the Atlantic fishermen should also receive a bonus. I am not opposing that. If we are going in for that kind of protection, it should not be confined to one class. I do not expect the minister to do this out of hand, but he or his successor, if they appoint a permanent Minister of Fisheries, should look into this question and see if it will not pay. Some years ago something of this kind was done on the Atlantic coast, but perhaps they did not have the proper equipment. There is now a growing market for the meal and I understand some use has been found for the oil made from dogfish livers. Would the minister kindly look during the recess into this phase of the situation and see whether he cannot help out this industry, which otherwise must absolutely perish? I forgot to say that the plant to which I have been alluding has written me that it has had to shut down; it could not carry on any longer. If it had been able to continue, this would have meant a great deal of work for people who would otherwise be very hard up, and it would also have materially assisted in conserving the supply of salmon we want to catch for human use. It would do as much good as a whole army of officials guarding rivers and creeks, because it would have done away with an enormous number of these dogfish. I think any hon. member who knows the destructiveness of these fish will confirm what I say.

Item agreed to.

To provide for the payment of bounty for the destruction of hair seals in tidal waters, \$40,000.

Mr. NEILL: I am sorry to see that this item has been cut down by ten per cent. That means that we are going to slacken our activities in doing away with one of these enemies to which I have already alluded. It is poor economy, after you have paid a heavy bounty for many years for the destruction of panthers and wild animals of that description, to stop paying the bounty and let the enemies breed again. As regards these hair seals, when you shoot them they immediately sink, so that

although the bounty is \$2 apiece, you may really kill three seals before you get the bounty for two, because it is so difficult to retrieve the animal.

I should like also to speak of the annual hunt for sea lions. The statement has been made that, on account of the expense, the abandonment of this hunt has been under consideration. There is, however, very little expense involved; the hunt is conducted by means of government patrol boats and almost entirely by members of the crews; they are on patrol in any case and they are doing an effective work. In this manner thousands, yes, tens of thousands of dollars are saved to the fishermen. It was definitely noted that the very year, almost the very month this patrol boat first began to destroy these sea lions off the Virgin islands, I think it is, there was a marked diminution in the number of fishermen's nets destroyed in the rivers and inlets. A net costs from \$300 to \$400, and to have it torn to pieces the first night it is put out, is a serious matter. It is said that we must be humane to these animals. That is all very well, but the people who say that do not think about the poor fisherman and his net which is destroyed and for which he has paid a very heavy price including duty. Nature, so to speak, keeps the balance by propagating these enemies, but when man comes in and takes an enormous toll on the salmon for human food, you no longer need the enemies, and unless you destroy the latter, you will obliterate the useful species. I can assure the minister the fishermen are grateful for the action of the government in thus assisting them year after year. I hope he will continue this and not pay any attention to those who call these sea lions innocent animals. You might as well talk about an innocent tiger.

There is just one other word I should like to say. I throw it out as a suggestion that will have to be dealt with by the minister or his department sooner or later. The time is rapidly coming when, in the interest of the British Columbia salmon industry, we shall have to renounce the treaty made with the United States, Russia, and, I think, Japan, to stop pelagic fur sealing. As the committee is aware, a treaty was made lasting for fifteen years and at the end of that time it was to continue automatically unless notice of six months or a year was given. It worked very well for a long time, but now the seals have