

Report of Commission on Fishery Matters

(Continued from page 2)
 exceeding \$100 for the fishing season. That as far as possible no license shall be issued to any person excepting upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

(d) Protection of the Seal Fishery by the establishment of a close season, if found necessary, or otherwise.

In relation to the question of the seal fishery, the Commission took the evidence of sealing captains and others who were thought capable of throwing some light on the subject, and also had 750 books printed, containing a series of questions to be answered, as far as possible, by the officers and men on the ships engaged in the seal fishery, and numbers of these were supplied to the ships leaving port last year, in the hope that they would elicit a very great volume of information that would be of value; but, much to the regret of the Commission, not more than a dozen of these books were filled up and returned, a circumstance evidencing a deplorable lack of interest.

As a result of a close examination of all the evidence which the Commission found itself able to obtain in relation to the seal fishery, a majority of the Commission found in favor of the following Recommendations:

That there be a close season on hood seals for three years.

That no seals be killed by the crews of the steel ships after April 15th.

That the Canadian Government be asked to enact similar sealing regulations to our own.

That wooden ships be limited to the use of fifteen rifles each.

Hon. J. Harvey and Hon. J. Ryan, submitted a minority report setting forth their views to the seal fishery, which is as follows:

The undersigned dissent from the majority findings in regard to the Seal Fishery in certain important particulars.

1. They claim that the use of guns should be prohibited on all steamers, wooden as well as steel.

2. And that all steamers, wooden as well as steel, should cease killing after April 15th.

The paramount consideration to be aimed at is the preservation and augmentation of the industry. This does not mean that any purely temporary consideration such as the provision of any device to give an artificial handicap in favour of the older wooden ships, if such is to be supplied at the possible expense of the raw material, upon which the future of the entire industry depends.

The view put forward herein is that common sense, as well as the considered opinion of a majority of those most competent to judge, and also the evidence of statistics, all point to the conclusion that the destruction of old seals and bedlamers has been the principal factor in the decline of the seal herd along the East Coast. Facilities for such destruction are enhanced by the use of guns, also by lengthening the open season at its end. Furthermore, shooting admittedly involves great and unavoidable waste.

In the Gulf, where for a series of years very few bedlamers or old were taken, the seals have increased in a remarkable ratio. The following records of the catch for the past twelve years show this quite clearly:

| FRONT: | | Young Old and Harps Bedlms. | |
|--|---------|-----------------------------|--|
| Average catch last 3 years (1911-1913) | 164,000 | 14,215 | |
| Average catch previous three years (1908-1910) | 198,000 | 20,403 | |
| Average catch previous three years (1905-1907) | 206,000 | 16,224 | |
| Average catch previous three years (1902-1904) | 242,000 | 16,859 | |

During this entire period the catch of Old and Bedlamers average fairly regularly, and there has been not the slightest diminution in the percentage of the take of these classes in recent years—rather the contrary.

If this goes on indefinitely the industry must rapidly continue to decline towards ultimate extinction.

In contrast to the Front, the Gulf catch has been:

| GULF: | | Harps Bedlms Young Old and | |
|--|--------|----------------------------|--|
| Average catch last 3 years (1911-1913) | 41,428 | 5,102 | |
| Average catch previous three years (1908-1910) | 40,630 | 4,834 | |
| Average catch previous three years (1905-1907) | 16,752 | 372 | |
| Average catch previous three years (1902-1904) | 19,479 | 434 | |

It will thus be seen that, following the six years 1902-1907 (when practically all the Gulf Old Harps and Bedlamers escaped), there was an enormous increase in the number of Gulf Seals. The annual take of young has increased two and a half times. These figures as well as other considerations point to the paramount ne-

cessity that exists for preserving the Old and Bedlamers.

Every probability warrants the theory that enough young will always escape to make good the losses of old seals from natural causes, and it may be reasonably concluded that if proper protection is afforded the seals after they have passed the witecoat stage, a steady increase in their numbers may be expected. This increase is as important for the wooden steamers as for any others.

This minority report, therefore, urges that as the simplest way of protecting the classes upon which the growth of the herd depends, the above recommendations should be made.

(e) Conserving our Bait Fishes.

(g) Preserving for our Fishermen Bait Fishes.

To the various aspects of these features of its work the Commission gave considerable attention, and found therein a problem of exceptional difficulty.

In regard to the questions: (1) of conservation of Bait Fishes, and (2) of Cold Storage preservation of bait, the Commission is of opinion:

That too little is known of the natural history of Fish of all kinds frequenting our waters.

That this absence of scientific knowledge applies to bait fishes as well as others.

(1) In the absence of intelligent scientific investigation the Commission believes that no special steps are called for at present, directed towards conservation of the bait supply, and that there need be no restrictions imposed upon the methods employed in taking Fish for bait purposes. At the same time penalties should be enforced for any willful waste.

(2) As regards preservation of bait by cold storage or otherwise the Commission is of opinion that the present law which provides 30 per cent. refund of the cost of establishing for the erection of these plants, and that the more widespread development which appears so desirable should be left to private enterprise. Such development is likely to follow rapidly as soon as the success and value of plants recently erected and now projected, have been proven.

The substitution of an operating bonus in the shape of bonus per cwt. of frozen bait actually delivered to fishermen, and eliminating the present restrictions in regard to distribution and terms of sale, might advantageously be substituted for the present provisions of the Act, which undertake on the one hand to return a substantial proportion of the operating expenses, while on the other hand they seriously curtail the freedom of the owners as regards the operation of their plant.

The important matter is that the bait should be preserved and distributed—other considerations being of secondary importance at this stage. Subsidized freezers must confine their distribution to Newfoundland fishermen.

(f) Ascertaining if the Prosecution of the Whale Fishery Tends to Injure the Fishery.

In pursuing its inquiries into this question, the members of the Commission were struck with the divergent views expressed by those engaged in the whaling industry and the fishermen generally, but inasmuch as the whaling industry is now virtually extinct and the problem is no longer a serious economic and industrial one, the Commission embodies its views in the following terms:

The Commission finds no tangible proof that the presence or absence of Whales affects the bait supply.

Scientific study in Norway upon more than one occasion has always resulted in a negative conclusion as far as that country is concerned.

There was much diversity of opinion among the witnesses examined by the Commission, but no real evidence was forthcoming to warrant the conclusion that either herring, caplin or squid are driven into shore by the Whales as is often claimed.

Those whose experience has been directly with the whaling industry are quite unanimous in their opinion that the incidence of the two have no casual relation to another.

There is good reason to think that on some parts of the coast where Whales have been hunted for many years, the bait fisheries show no very decided variation from former days.

On the other hand it is impossible to ignore the very decided and most general attitude of the practical working fishermen in this matter. While as a general rule unable to justify their belief by clear explanations as to the questions of "why and how," they are almost unanimous in the view that the destruction or driving off of the Whales affects adversely the inshore supply of bait.

The Commission believe that this is not the case though they feel that their conclusion is merely a majority

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opinion based upon such unscientific evidence as is alone available in this country.

As a question involving the possible enactment of repressive legislation against whaling, it does not appear that under any circumstances there is a present need for such action, seeing that a large number of factories have been forced to abandon the business owing to losses incurred in its prosecution. The controversy is in fact rapidly being settled against the whaling industry by natural means.

The Commission, however, recommend that whaling licenses which have been and are being relinquished, should not be resumed or reissued, until an investigation upon more scientific lines than has been possible for this Commission to make has been instituted, but on the other hand they hold that no adequate reasons have been shown to justify the suspension of licenses for stations now in existence which have arranged for present and prospective operation.

All of which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's consideration, by Your Excellency's obedient servants.

- A. W. PICCOTT, Chairman.
- JOHN HARRIS.
- JOHN HARVEY (with reservations as above).
- W. C. JOB.
- M. G. WINTER.
- A. F. GOODRIDGE.
- JAMES RYAN (with reservations as above).
- PHILIP TEMPLEMAN.
- E. P. MORRIS.
- M. P. CASHIN.
- R. MOULTON.
- A. E. HICKMAN.
- P. T. McGRATH.

May 1st, 1915

Such a thing as an old maid is almost unknown among the Turks.

Buy GOODS Manufactured in NEW-FOUNDLAND & keep the Fathers at work

Henderson Chosen To Succeed Samuel Labor Leader New President of Local Government Board in Britain

London, May 26.—The first authoritative announcement as to an appointment in the British National Cabinet, outside of Premier Asquith and Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, is that of Arthur Henderson, a labor leader, who succeeded Mr. Herbert Louis Samuel as president of the Local Government Board. The trade unionists are highly pleased at the appointment.

That Mr. Henderson is a born leader of men is evident from the fact that before he had reached his twenties his gifts as a speaker and organizer so impressed his fellow-workers that they always chose him to head their deputations. Those were the days when Mr. Henderson was working as an iron moulder in the firm of Robert Stephenson and Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to which trade he had been apprenticed when he left school at a very early age.

In the north Mr. Henderson is always referred to as "Arthur" by working men, and by the iron founders he is regarded with real affection, for few men have done more than Mr. Henderson for their

fellow-workers. The labor leader owes not a little of his success to the fact that he does not belong to the aggressive type of labor man. "He is the representative of labor in all that is best, in the right and responsible sense of the term," said an important London Tory journal about him not long ago—high praise indeed for a man who began to earn his own living before he was twelve years of age.

One of the first men to recognize the abilities of Mr. Henderson was Lord Morley, whose eulogy of a clever speech which the labor leader made in 1895 placed him in the direct running for the Liberal candidature of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Indeed, his name was actually submitted by the local executive, but at the last moment Mr. James Craig, a former colleague of Viscount Morley in the representation of the city, was persuaded to stand again; and thus it was that Mr. Henderson came within a hair's-breadth of becoming Liberal candidate for Newcastle. Ultimately he entered Parliament as Labor member for the Barnard Castle Division of Durham in 1902, which constituency he has since represented.

The amount of work which Mr. Henderson has accomplished and his many activities have often amazed his colleagues. He is chairman of a dozen and one labor committees, has sat on several Royal Commissions, in secretary of the Labor party

outside Parliament, has worked indefatigably on the local councils of Durham and Darlington, of which latter place he was mayor in 1903. As a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church he has for many years been an active lay preacher and a representative at the annual conference.

ORDER FOR 8,000 CANNON

Bethlehem Steel Co. Plant Reports Getting Check For \$16,150,000

Bethlehem, Penn., May 19.—The Bethlehem Steel Company to-day received an order for 8,000 cannon from Lord Kitchener, head of the British War Office. The order was accompanied by a check for \$16,150,000, partly for work already done by the Bethlehem Steel Company for the British Government and partly in advance payment for material that will go into the 8,000 new fieldpieces.

The cannon ordered are fieldpieces of the kind that can be turned out in about a month.

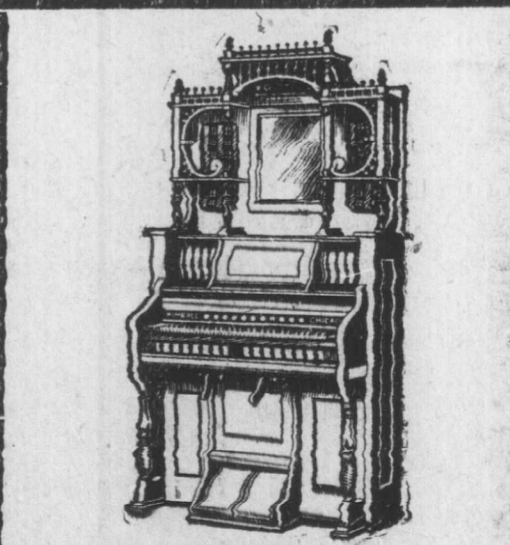
The projectile contracts are well under way, and the shells are being made so rapidly that Bethlehem is fast catching up with the demand of Lord Kitchener. Shrapnel is now being turned out at the rate of 12,000 shells a day, and of the one-pounder and smaller shells the product is 50,000 and upward every twenty-four hours. Buildings are being erected and machinery installed largely to increase the output of shrapnel.



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