

like to be the Minister who would take the responsibility of introducing a new enemy to the valuable fish that we now have on the Atlantic coast, and the success of such a scheme as this would amount to that. Supposing the experiment were successful and we established seal rookeries in the Hudson's Bay, the inroads upon the fisheries that we are now doing all in our power to protect would be far greater than any they have had hitherto to resist, and the so-called balance of nature would be, if I might suggest it, very seriously interfered with. The House will remember that in the discussion which took place before the tribunal at Paris, it was significant that the great men of science of the world knew nothing whatever upon the subject of seal life. Many of them gave their opinions generally in favour of United States contentions on these points, but they practically had to admit their ignorance on the subject, and indeed that want of knowledge was to a very large extent shown by the statements they made. Then, again, before encountering all these difficulties, the expense of the experiment would be far greater than I think the hon. gentleman has considered. There would not only be the sea journey for these animals with which to experiment, but there would have to be transport both by land and by sea, and there would be the selection of the breeding places without the slightest reason to suppose that after you had put these animals in the water they would return. In the case of the known habits of the seal, they return to their rookeries, and to their rookeries, only for the purpose of reproduction and they are found nowhere else near them although the conditions of the surroundings are exactly similar to the places which they have chosen for their land home. If we put a limited number of these seals into the Hudson's Bay, we have not the slightest reason for supposing they would ever see them again there. Their course would be uncertain and their return to any particular spot most unlikely, because if there is anything peculiar in connection with the islands which they now frequent, there is the instinct in the seals, from long habit, to return to particular places. We know that the seals on the Pacific coast take a course as far south as California and then come back; but no one can say that the conditions on that annual migration on the Atlantic side would be the same as regards either temperature or water currents, which are supposed to affect them materially, or the question of the abundance of the food supply. I think I would be safe in saying that there can be no comparison between the food supply for seals in the waters of the Atlantic and the waters of the Pacific. While the seals of the Pribyloff herd, so-called, are found year after year in the Pribyloff Islands, nevertheless the fact that they are sometimes found on one island and sometimes on another, is a serious obstacle to any confidence in the success of the proposition before the House, because the hon. mem-

ber for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) will see: that with such a range of islands, and such a range of shore, and such an unknown region for their roaming, it would be very difficult to discover their whereabouts on their return. In my humble judgment the expense of even watching the movements of these particular animals would be enormous, and therefore, while the subject is one of very great interest, it would require a very great deal of time and money to deal with it thoroughly. I am at the outset compelled to confess to the hon. gentleman that from my examination into the habits of these animals, it is too soon, even to begin with the experiment which he has suggested. There are other subjects, coming under my department, on which we have gathered far more definite information over a long series of years, and in which our citizens are greatly interested. Take, for instance, the question of transporting lobsters from the Atlantic to the Pacific and introducing them into these waters. That is a very much simpler problem to attack, and yet in connection with that we have been watching in Canada the very costly experiments which have been made in the United States, and which up to the present time have been a complete failure. They have gone to a great deal of expense with these experiments and yet they have found it impossible to show any practical result or success in that direction. I could mention many other subjects that are under the consideration of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and if we were prepared to take them up and supply the necessary funds, I could exhaust all the available money very speedily in a direction in which our fishermen and our people are much more immediately and vitally concerned. I hope that after a general expression of opinion by hon. gentlemen touching the resolution, that the House will consent that this debate should be adjourned. I shall, therefore, Mr. Speaker, move that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). With regard to the statement of the hon. gentleman that we have not sufficient information as to the nature and habits of the fur seal to enable us to undertake this experiment, I would say that that observation of his, is much like the advice the old lady gave to her children: that they should not go into the water until they had learned to swim. In my opinion, the only way of ascertaining how far the experiment can be made successfully, is by actual trial of the experiment. Now, the hon. gentleman has referred to the ordinary seal, the hair seal, and these fur-bearing seals of the northern Pacific. These are part of a very large family. The spotted seal on the coast of Greenland is quite as large as the largest fur-bearing seal on the Pacific coast, and the leopard seal is a very large seal, acquiring often, a weight of several hundred pounds. The statements by Mr. Wood, I think,