

The Colonist

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THE DAILY COLONIST

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ALIENS AND OUR FISHERIES.

A question of considerable interest was raised by Mr. Clifford in the Legislature on Friday last on a resolution calling attention to the fact that the halibut fishery on our northern coast is practically in the hands of an American company and asking the Dominion Government to take steps to secure the fishery for our own people.

As to the first point—the statement that the halibut fishery will be depleted by the methods employed by the American company—we should like to get some reliable information on the subject. We have heard similar statements in the past during the past two or three years. Some time ago a statement appeared in several Provincial newspapers to the effect that the fishing grounds originally leased by this company had been abandoned for others, as the supply of halibut on the former had been exhausted.

Now this would be a serious matter, but the halibut fisheries on the New England coast in the United States are depleted by being over-fished and that fact is one of the reasons why it is found profitable to carry the halibut to the North Pacific ocean across the continent by an expensive method of transportation and sell it in the cities of the Eastern States in the Union.

So much for the depletion of the halibut fishery alleged to be going on in the United States. As regards the employment of American companies, we believe that it is necessary in order to get the fish into the United States free of duty. A Canadian company using Canadian vessels manned by Canadian sailors and fishermen, would be compelled to pay a duty of one cent per pound on all the fish it exported to the United States. This, of course, makes Canadian competition in the business practically impossible.

There is also to be considered a competition in the Middle and Eastern States which includes all the principal dealers in fish under an agreement with the fishing company, whereby they cannot deal with any other company. This to the company which Mr. Clifford's resolution refers to, state that its management gives the benefit to be derived from the opportunities that men can purchase of the fish and the Canadian fishermen and merchants traders. If, however, the conditions on which the export of fish into the United States is free of duty are, as stated above, it is apparent that the company has no competition in the matter but must either comply with the United States customs regulations or abandon the business.

The matters seems to us to resolve into this: Are these fisheries being depleted by the manner in which it is possible to have Canadian vessels and crews substituted for vessels under the American flag with American crews and fishermen? The first is by the depletion of our fisheries and the second by the depletion of the wages of our fishermen. It is to be hoped that the passage of Mr. Clifford's resolution will cause the Dominion Government at Ottawa to institute inquiries with a view to ascertaining the facts. Should they be found correct, the report of the fishery's probable depletion, then the Dominion Government should take steps to prevent such an occurrence. The question whether the halibut fishery is only a business, or whether the value of our fisheries and how little is done to show that their importance is realized, judging from the manner in which the fisheries are neglected by the Federal authorities.

regarded as seeking certain privileges and rights under the law which do not extend to any corresponding responsibilities or obligations on the part of the public opinion in the United Kingdom that followed the decision by the House of Lords in what is known as the Taff Vale Railway case, showed the existence of such a feeling on that side of the Atlantic as well as on that side of the Atlantic. It is to be noted that Mr. Clifford's resolution is in line with the counteraction that sentiment. It will also, in our opinion, have a beneficial effect in another direction.

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education. British Columbia, too, in recent years has suffered in common with many other provinces of the world from labor troubles, now happily, for the most part, over. One of the causes of these troubles was the lack of political education. The truly remarkable, which have at last been overcome, are the result of a really better off on account of having had to overcome them. It is our opinion that the greatest benefit to be derived from the present situation is the fact that the Dominion Government will be required to take steps to secure the fishery for our own people.

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Has the law prohibiting the killing of beaver during the breeding season stopped that killing? I think I am correct in saying that the beaver is now being protected during the breeding season. It is our opinion that the greatest benefit to be derived from the present situation is the fact that the Dominion Government will be required to take steps to secure the fishery for our own people.

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Arbitration Committee

Mr. Hooper's Cross-Examination Took up the Whole Session Yesterday.

Witness Protests Against Very Many of the Questions Asked By Counsel.

The select committee appointed to investigate the arbitrators' award in the Government Buildings case, held its second sitting yesterday morning at 10.30 in the Government Buildings. The sitting was presided over by Mr. H. D. Hemmings.

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DR. SERRITZ'S NERVE PILLS. Relieve you of that Tired Feeling. Take one before Breakfast. CYRUS S. BOWEN, CHEMIST, 98 Government Street, near Yates. Phones: 425 and 450.