

burning ships on the seas, but about forty only have been equipped with oil separators.

One notable step in this direction is the "Majestic," the world's largest liner, which is in dock at Southampton, is now being fitted with a separator. This separator has been constructed to filter 150 tons of oily water in an hour, and it is claimed that the value of the oil it will save in a single transatlantic voyage will be from £100 to £500.

Lieut.-General Sir Edwin Alderson writes in the "Daily Mail" (24th March, 1927) of the sufferings of sea-birds through discharged oil at Folkestone:—

"One of these birds came right ashore. The surf on the pebble beach was hardly perceptible, yet this bird, who could probably defy any ordinary storm, was rolled over and over, and twice drawn back by the undertow.

"Eventually he struggled ashore and stood on the beach. I managed to catch him and found, as I suspected, that his wings and whole plumage were saturated with oil. He was very thin, his breastbone being nearly through his skin. No doubt he was starving, as he could neither fly nor dive properly for his food."

Through the help of the International Council of Women and its president, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, letters from the Federal Council of Australia and from National Councils have appeared in the Melbourne "Argus," the Brisbane "Courier," and other leading papers, calling attention to the grave problem presented by oil pollution and to the leaflet issued by the R.S.P.B. The "Argus" had already commented on the oil on the beaches and wharves of Australia, and the hon. secretary of the Federal Council in a vigorous letter urges that the Federal Government should deal with a question "of importance in the preservation of seabird life, property, and human life.—*Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.*"

WILD BIRDS PROTECTION IN ENGLAND.

The protection of wild birds in England appears to have reached a similar position to that in evidence in New Zealand. A multiplicity of administrative bodies and a corresponding complex number of regulations and rules are hampering the work. A Bill is therefore now before the British House of Commons, aimed mainly at remedying this state of affairs, and making the operations of the collector more difficult and more easily checked. With this in view, the penalty for possessing the skins of birds and eggs is increased. With the object of better advising the authorities, various committees of experts are to be set up. This manner of dealing with collectors' permits has already been suggested to the Minister in charge in this Dominion; but the offer to assist so far has been declined.