

known exactly where the authority lay to control the fisheries. I always understood that a workable arrangement had been made between the two governments on the subject. Until the observations of the hon. gentleman, I have never heard a word of complaint of the administration of the laws in the Georgian bay by the government of Ontario. And I know that the same class of men are carrying on the industry in the Georgian bay that have carried it on for many years. That the licenses were given to Conservatives and farmed out to others who were not fishermen is certainly news to me. The other charge that the hon. gentleman made was that fish which were caught in conformity with the regulations were confiscated and used by the parties themselves. These charges should not be made unless there is evidence to back them up. If I had such information as the hon. member intimates he has—for he says complaints were made to him—I certainly would make the charge and press it; and if I did not make complaint and insist upon an investigation, I should never make mention of the matter in this House. I do not think a member of this House is doing his whole duty who contents himself with making a statement here when his own friends in the province are in a position to discuss it and debate it and bring it before the face of the very men who would be culpable if the charge were correct. The leader of the opposition in the Ontario House lives right on the Georgian bay where the fishing industry is carried on so extensively.

Mr. CLARKE (Essex). I did not refer to Georgian bay.

Mr. SPROULE. I thought the hon. gentleman spoke of Georgian bay.

Mr. STRATTON. It was the minister.

Mr. SPROULE. The reference was made by some speaker on that side with regard to the law not being properly enforced in the Georgian bay. I have before now asked in this House if there were any complaints, and was told there were none. It would appear that the working understanding which I thought existed between the two governments has not yet been reached. I have always understood that it was the right of the provincial government to issue licenses, but that it was questionable whether the federal government had that right, but that it had the right to make regulations with regard to close seasons, the size of mesh and other things of that kind. I think an arrangement was made at one time under which the licenses were to be issued by the Ontario government, and the Dominion government would confine itself to such questions as the close season and the size of mesh of nets. I am sorry that that understanding does not seem to exist, and

Mr SPROULE.

that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries thinks it necessary to appoint practically an army of inspectors to take charge and oversight of the fisheries in Ontario, because, undoubtedly, it will lead to conflict and trouble in the future, for the inspectors belonging to the province of Ontario will not lightly abandon their work, because federal overseers are appointed. This is an old question, and I am sorry that no arrangement has been reached between the two governments.

Mr. MARSHALL. I am rather surprised to hear the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Clarke) make the charges he has made. I am particularly surprised to hear such charges from that hon. gentleman, because we have regarded him as a man who is fair in his statements. But he is altogether wrong when he says that only Conservatives are given licenses at such places as Port Bruce, Port Burwell and Port Stanley, which are large fishing centres.

Mr. CLARKE (Essex). I did not make that statement.

Mr. MARSHALL. There are as many Liberals fishing in Port Stanley as there are Conservatives, old fishermen who have been fishing there for years. I must say, I think it a perfect waste of money to appoint these special inspectors. They are not needed at all. The gentleman who was appointed fishery inspector in East Elgin was a good worker for years for the Liberal party. I have never heard of a complaint in East Elgin by the fishery inspector. It is a shame to waste money in this way.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). They are just appointing them as political agents.

Mr. MARSHALL. Oh, yes, that is what the man in East Elgin is; that is what he has been doing for years and that is what he will do.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). The same in Leeds.

Mr. MARSHALL. I do not care what his politics are he is not needed. We have other government inspectors who are doing their duty, but this office is absolutely unnecessary and I object to this wasteful expenditure.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. The hon. member for Essex (Mr. Clarke) is usually very fair when he speaks in this House, but I think his remarks are not justifiable in the present case. So far as the Georgian bay is concerned I do not believe the fishery laws have ever been administered so strictly and indeed so severely as since the Ontario government took hold of their administration. I know of three specific cases in my own town where the Ontario inspector seized the boats of the