

those who handle the finished product, if I am not mistaken, at least 2,000 men obtain their livelihood in this business, and a large amount of capital is invested in some of the finest mills of the Dominion of Canada on different portions of this magnificent river. We are informed upon good authority that, at any rate in regard to the majority of these mills, they are so situated that it is absolutely impossible for the owners to undertake to burn this sawdust without endangering their property, endangering the forests, and endangering the villages to an extent entirely disproportionate to the benefit that would accrue from that manner of disposing of the sawdust. They are also satisfied that the inventions which have been referred to by the Minister cannot be operated in those localities. Notwithstanding the strong opinion the Minister has on the general subject, and on which I am inclined to agree with him, I trust that he will consider all these facts, and bear in mind the strong pressure put upon him by his own political friends, the vast interests at stake and the large number of men whose means of livelihood are imperilled, with a view to seeing whether he cannot give the La Have River the benefit of all the arguments that have been offered in regard to nineteen or twenty other rivers in the different portions of the Dominion which are already exempt. I believe that the general argument, with which I am inclined to agree, to a certain extent, in regard to the effect upon fish of sawdust, combined with other mill rubbish and refuse, will be unaffected by the favour being given to the La Have River which we are now asking for, and I think the political argument will disappear entirely. I am sure the Minister will find that both sides of politics, in the region where these mills are situated, would feel that their interests had been consulted, and that the benefits accruing to them would redound to the credit of the Administration, if the Minister took into consideration the strong representations made by these petitioners and would kindly accede to their request.

Mr. WHITE (Shelburne). I listened with a great deal of pleasure to the very elaborate explanations made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and to the flood of information which he cast upon this very interesting subject. I have been surprised to hear from time to time the insinuations that have been made as to the motives which actuated that hon. gentleman in carrying out the policy of the Government, because I may say that in the county which I have the pleasure to represent, we have some streams upon which are situated a number of mills, manufacturing a very large quantity of lumber, and the owners of these mills, without exception, so far as I am aware, carry out the provisions of the Act and the regulations, save the sawdust, and prevent rubbish of every kind from falling into those streams. It is not necessary for me to say that those people are not of the same stripe of politics; no discrimination is made whatever, no discrimination has ever been thought of upon such a subject. The reason why the mill-owners in that county accede to the provisions of the statute so readily, is that the County of Shelburne is also one of the largest fishing counties in that province, and the people being interested in fisheries are extremely anxious to see that they shall be preserved and increased, and not injured

by this mill rubbish. That is almost the universal desire not only of the mill-owners, but of the large body of the people who engage in the deep sea fisheries of the coast—because, as has well been said, the coast fisheries are dependent almost entirely upon the increase of the anadromous fish which frequent these streams. The moment these fish cease to come into our rivers and streams, that moment the coast fisheries will fall off. Now, with regard to the particular river which has been spoken of so frequently in this discussion, I express no opinion, because I am not sufficiently acquainted with that stream. I know the La Have River is one of the best in the province; I know there are a large number of mills upon it, and I know that a large quantity of logs and lumber have been manufactured upon it for a great number of years, and whether that stream should be exempted from the operation of this Act, I leave for those to judge who are better acquainted with it and who know more about its peculiar circumstances than I do. I feel, however, that in case that river is exempted from the operations of this Act, you will find applications coming from mill-owners on many other streams in the Province of Nova Scotia, and they will then urge their claims with a very fair reason. Now, I had almost imagined although I know a great many very diverse opinions have been expressed, I had almost imagined that at the present time, at all events, it had come to be almost universally admitted that the casting of sawdust and other rubbish into the streams was extremely injurious to the fisheries. Mr. Rogers, the late inspector, has been cited here at considerable length, but we must remember that Mr. Rogers has expressed opinions differing considerably at different times. His opinion, when he was inspector of fisheries, differs very much from the opinion he expressed after he ceased to be inspector; and as to his statistics, whenever he attempts to show that the fisheries have increased in these streams in which there is no sawdust, you will find, if you look at some of his many contributions to the press and his reports, that he quotes those very same statistics to show that the fisheries have increased in those streams where there is no sawdust, in consequence of the wonderful fish-ladder he has invented which he seems to think is a panacea for all the ills that affect fish life. Now, I am also of the opinion that this rubbish and sawdust is very injurious to the navigation of these streams, and of the harbours into which they flow. I am satisfied through my own observation that the sawdust which floats down the river and sinks to the bottom, affects navigation very materially, and that the harbours in many of these places are much shallower than they used to be, and if we pushed our investigations further we would find that in many cases they have become not only shallow, but applications are often made to the Minister of Public Works to send a dredge there to deepen them. Inasmuch as this matter has been very clearly and fully discussed, and after listening to the exhaustive remarks which have been made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, I do not think it well for me to weary the House on this subject. I merely rose to express my approbation, not only of the remarks made by the Minister, but of the policy of the Government, and of the manner in which he has carried out that policy.

Mr. KENNY. It will be within the recollection of many hon. gentlemen who are now present that