

administration. Until this conference takes place or until other steps are taken to remedy the situation, I think we ought to do for fisheries what we have done for agriculture and other industries.

While it is true the federal government has transferred the administration of fisheries to the province of Quebec, it should still take an interest in the fishermen. Notwithstanding the sympathy the provincial government may have for the fishermen, notwithstanding its desire to help fishermen in general, it is unable to solve the problem. The problem of the fisheries is not only provincial in character, it is national and even international. Every year fishermen come from Newfoundland to fish along the coast of Charlevoix-Saguenay and Gaspé. The provincial authorities are unable to put a stop to this practice; the provincial government has no authority to take any steps to remedy the situation. In 1922 the federal government had a boat equipped for this service, which boat was managed by experts. The gentleman at the head of that particular branch of the department in Quebec was Doctor Bernier, who has a wide knowledge of all questions affecting the fisheries. This gentleman has been in the department for almost ten years and has rendered great service to the fishermen.

I think I have spoken long enough, and I thank the hon. Minister of Fisheries for listening patiently to my remarks. Should he receive a letter from the provincial government, I ask the minister to rise above party prejudices and recognize that this is not only a provincial problem but rather one that is national in scope. I ask him to forget party differences and to do his best to help the provincial authorities in this regard.

Mr. VENIOT: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with a great deal of interest to the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon) and to the attack he made upon the administration of fisheries by the government of the province of Quebec. Whatever may have been his object in making that attack he certainly was far afield in his comparisons to show the results of the administration. The hon. member pointed out that in 1930 the earning capacity of the average fisherman in British Columbia was \$1,194 as compared with \$206 for the average fisherman in Quebec, but he failed to throw the proper light upon this subject by giving the earning capacity of the average fisherman in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where the fisheries are under the control of the federal government. If he

had given those figures the committee would have seen that the same conditions prevail in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia that he says prevail in Quebec.

The hon. member stated that every fall fishermen from Newfoundland come and fish in Quebec waters but he knows quite well that the vessels do not come for fish; they are engaged in the sealing business. The hon. member should have told the committee that under the decision of the privy council the province of Quebec has absolutely nothing to do with fishing outside the three mile limit; that is entirely under the jurisdiction of the Dominion government. He should also have told the committee that so far as regulations for the administration of fisheries are concerned the provincial government has nothing at all to do with the laying down, the adopting and the putting into force of regulations for the conservation of fisheries. That matter is under the jurisdiction of the federal government, and although the provincial government has taken over the care of the fisheries, in the final analysis it has nothing to do with passing or adopting regulations for the conservation of fish.

Mr. GAGNON: That is exactly what I said.

Mr. VENIOT: Far from it. Having referred to the inconsistent attitude of the hon. gentleman in connection with his comparisons, let me now come to another point.

I wish it to be distinctly understood that any remarks which I have made in connection with Malagash or any other salt manufactured in Canada were not made with the intention of knocking the industry.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: The hon. member knows nothing about it.

Mr. VENIOT: The hon. member says I know nothing about it, but he knows less. If the hon. gentleman had wanted to be fair in dealing with the salt question he would have told this committee that complaints have been so numerous in connection with the use of Malagash salt that the government has instituted an investigation to be carried on by the biological branch. That branch has not as yet obtained sufficient evidence to permit its submitting an official report. It would never have been called upon to make this investigation—

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Will my hon. friend place himself on record as being opposed to the use of Malagash salt by the fishermen of Nova Scotia?