

The legislation now proposed is requested by the board itself after it has given consideration to the matter from all standpoints. The main objects of the Bill are to constitute a board which will not become unwieldy in size, as it might under the present Act, and to give the board a name indicating the work in which it is engaged.

The present appropriation for the board is \$201,300. As this aspect of the matter will be open for consideration when the fisheries estimates are being dealt with in the other House, I will not discuss it now.

The explanatory notes in the Bill are so adequate that I assume honourable senators would deem further explanation unnecessary.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: I understand that the main purpose of the Bill is to change the name of the present board.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: That is all.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: The Biological Board was formerly a separate organization and did not come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Fisheries. In 1920 I introduced in the other House a Bill to place the board under the Minister's authority. That Bill was rejected by this honourable Chamber after a very distinguished professor—he has since departed this life—had carried on an active lobby against it. Is this new organization to come under the personal direction of the Minister?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Has my honourable friend read the Bill?

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: No.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I think it does.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Bill says:

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“Board” means “The Fisheries Research Board of Canada”;

“Minister” means the Minister of Fisheries;

“Department” means the Department of Fisheries.

There shall be a body to be called “The Fisheries Research Board of Canada” which shall be under the control of the Minister.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: That is it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND:

The Board shall consist of fifteen members appointed by the Minister as follows: two from the Department, two representing the fishery industry on the Atlantic coast, two representing the fishery industry on the Pacific coast, and nine scientists selected from a list including nominations which may be made by any Canadian university whose staff embraces scientists engaged in research work in any way bearing upon fishery problems; provided that for subsequent appointments of scientific members a list including nominations as aforesaid shall be supplied to the Minister by the Board.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: It is quite clear that it comes under the Minister. I am satisfied.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think this Bill was very closely studied by the members of the board. They are confident that we will endorse their work.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: In years past the Biological Board just went its own way, and very few problems were referred to the Minister or discussed with him. I hope that under this Bill the Minister, who is given the authority he should always have had, will keep very close personal supervision over the new board.

Hon. WILLIAM DUFF: Honourable senators, I do not intend to detain the House for more than a few moments. I agree with the honourable senator from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) that all this Bill really involves is a change in the name of the board. From my knowledge of the old Biological Board I do not believe the new board can do any more than was done in the past. I remember distinctly the time when my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) brought up this matter. Whether any credit is due to him or not, the fact remains that most of the men appointed to the board at that time were practical men. My only objection to this Bill—and I am not going to oppose it strongly, because it does not mean very much—is that it reduces the number of practical men on the board and provides for the appointment of scientists from the different colleges of this country. While, of course, we must have scientists, men of exceptional education and ability, it seems to me that the majority of the board should be practical men in the fisheries, not men from the universities.

The Bill says there are to be only two practical men from the Pacific coast and two from the Atlantic coast. On the old board we had men from the biological stations at Halifax and St. Andrews on the Atlantic, and Prince Rupert on the Pacific, and those men, working with Handfield Whitman and other practical men, did splendid work. Perhaps it was just as well that when they came to a decision they did not report to the Minister, but carried on by themselves. I am sure it would be just as well if there were no reports to-day, because practical men who understand the needs of the industry are in a better position to say what should be done than are some of the officials of the department.