

with the spring fishing, and substitute the autumn fishing for it. The district referred to by the hon. gentleman from Bonaventure, I thought, was unfairly treated by the shortening of the time. The committee who had charge of it took a certain number of days off the district, and added a recommendation that the season for the district in question should be further cut, a certain number of days after the first or second year. I think the district was unfairly treated in the circumstances, this year we have only some three or four weeks' fishing and our product will be short, and it is possible the minister may be willing, under the present circumstances, to consider that, but to my mind the season in the district should extend to the end of June instead of the 25th. Then the same number of days would be taken off as has been taken off in the other districts. Regarding the hatcheries, I suppose hon. gentlemen know that fish devour one another. On one occasion I was at a hatchery near Shippigan, and these little lobsters, about the size of mosquitoes, were coming out of the shell, and the small fish that had been pumped up from the channel were devouring these little lobsters. There is a general impression that these lobsters are emptied, as it were, into the sea, and remain on the surface, and are devoured by other fish. I am quite sure that, at certain seasons of the year, other fish, say mackerel or herring, do school very largely on the surface of the water, and, of course, they are cannibals, if I may so express myself, and they devour one another, and I am under the impression that large numbers of those little lobsters thus cast upon the sea are devoured by other fish. I have heard as a suggested remedy that the department should place these lobsters in shallow water in the seaweed. If they put them down at low water, the tide would rise and cover them, and in that way they would be on the bottom. I mention that, because there are not many fish in the bays in the summer season. Some smelts and tommy cod frequent them but not to any great extent. I have heard it suggested that much better results would be obtained if these lobsters were deposited in shallow water, in the eel grass, so that they could get to the bottom, and have time to grow and take care of themselves up to a certain time. I do not pretend to have a deep scientific knowledge along these lines, and I do not know whether that is practical or not, but I do believe it would be wise to do away with the spring fishing

[M. Loggie.]

season, because pilfering would go on after the close season, as it goes on after the 25th of June. The season in that district is five days too short to be fair with the other districts. If we take up our traps on the 25th June, and keep them on shore until the lobster has shed its shell, got the new shell, and got into a hardy condition so that it moves around, as it does in the course of a few weeks, perhaps it would not be unfair to let the fishermen have, say two or three weeks in the month of September: give them the month of September, or whatever time the department find the lobster is in a wholesome condition for food, and then let everybody, small and large, try to obey the law, and avoid this charge that is so rampant, that the law is not recognized, which is quite true. There is no question whatever about the infringement of the law. Parties will get a few cans, put these lobsters in the cans at their homes, and market them. The quality is not what it ought to be, but nevertheless the lobsters are put on the market, and they find a ready sale, especially if the supply is short. I had a telegram from home yesterday saying that at present fishing is good. In a telegram that I received to-day it was suggested that an offer which had been received for the purchase of goods should be declined, because of the probability of the supply being short. I think that for this year the minister ought to extend until July 5 the fishing season which closes on June 25. We used to have until July 10, but subsequently ten days were taken off the time. When ten days is taken off the fishing season in one district, not more should be taken off in another. I think that in the interests of all concerned, the minister ought to give these matters consideration.

Mr. KYTE: The fishermen are suffering serious handicaps in respect of the cost of the necessary supplies, the cost of living and the general scarcity of food. I think, therefore, that we would not be asking too much if we requested that the close season should be entirely abolished for the present year. In the part of Nova Scotia which I represent, the fishermen are not getting as much for their catch this year as formerly, the canneries stating that the transportation of lobsters is restricted by reason of the shortage of merchant shipping. Under present war conditions, it is only fair that the fishermen should be relieved to some extent from the difficulties under which they are working, and much would be accom-