

10th was the best date for opening the season on the north side. He strongly urged that a date not earlier than May 1st., be fixed for setting out the lines. In regard to the lobster spawning he was convinced that they spawn in every month of the year though probably more in some than in others. By catching lobsters in the fall the spawn is destroyed in the shape of the roe, so nothing would be gained in this direction by changing the close season. May and June, he believed, were the proper months to fish lobsters.

Mr. A. F. Larkin would allow the fishermen to commence as early as they saw fit, and would shorten the close season to July 1st. Prohibiting fishing to 1st May meant loss to fishermen about Mimingash and Campbellton.

Hon. D. Davies agreed with Mr. McEachern relative to the spawning of the lobster. He further stated the market in England was for the May and June pack.

Senator Arsenault, Egmont Bay, said it was only by the extension of the close season that the fishermen there profited. He heard no complaints of lobsters packed in July or August, but did of those packed in May and June. Would be satisfied for season to begin August 1st. He was in favor of later fishing than the present season.

Mr. J. A. Matheson, Campbellton, (Chairman) was in favor of the two months fishing, beginning at the opening of navigation. He objected to having a set date for placing the lines.

Mr. A. J. McDonald, M. P. P., Georgetown, did not agree with Mr. Matheson respecting the setting of the lines.

Messrs. G. D. Longworth, D. C. Morson and D. Farquharson considered it would be unfair to limit the time of setting out lines on the Island unless the same were done in regard to N. S. and N. B.

THE MINISTER SPEAKS.

As all matters pertaining to the lobster industry had by this time been most thoroughly discussed, the Hon. Mr. Davies addressed the meeting in an

earnest business-like manner. After expressing his sincere thanks to the gentlemen present for so heartily and numerously responding to his invitation, the Minister said he felt convinced that he was speaking to the intelligence and wealth engaged in the lobster fishing and packing of this Province, an industry the importance of which may be understood from the fact that the export of the product is over half a million of dollars annually.

In listening to the remarks of the various speakers, the Minister said he had acquired a great deal of information, which in considering and dealing with this most important matter would be invaluable to him. He stated that some years ago he had occasion to study the lobster fishery and in the course of his research had read the report of Mr. Frank Buckland, relative to the lobster industry along the coasts of Ireland, Scotland and England, and that eminent authority concluded that so far as those waters faced the Atlantic ocean no regulations or close season were required, but this would not hold good with respect to the estuaries and bays which it was possible to fish out. The conclusion arrived at by Mr. Buckland, Mr. Davies believed, would also apply to Canada, that is, the season will regulate itself on the north side, but when you come to Malpeque Bay and the Straits of Northumberland, the spawning grounds of the lobster, they must be protected. From North Cape round the North Side to Cape Bear and Grand River should remain as at present, and from Cape Bear to West Cape and to corresponding points in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the regulations heretofore enforced were destructive to the industry.

He was profoundly impressed with the views of the meeting and promised that he would give them his most earnest consideration and consult with Mr. Prince, Commissioner of the Fisheries department, Ottawa, respecting the fall season for fishing. Those fishing on the south side, said the Minister, have signified their willingness to commence fishing between the 1st and 15th Aug., and risk the decline in the English markets for the fall pack, so if the