

with regard to the sorting out of small fish. Under the regulations of this parliament, fish of a certain size are subject to confiscation, and instances have arisen in which inspectors appointed by the province of Ontario have confiscated fish which were not under size, but should have been allowed to go on the market; and these inspectors have used these fish for their own private purposes. With such a state of things existing, it seems to me there was urgent need for some impartial administration of the fishery law. It is unfortunate that jurisdiction is divided. What I would like to have done would be to have the fishermen take out licenses from this government as well. If licenses were required subject to the supervision of the fishery officers appointed by this government, we could hope for something like an impartial administration of the law.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). The Ontario government has the sole power to issue licenses.

Mr. CLARKE (Essex). I do not think it has.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). That is the decision of the Privy Council.

Mr. CLARKE (Essex). I do not think my hon. friend will find any decision declaring that the whole power to grant licenses rests with the provincial authorities. True the beds of the rivers and lakes belong to the provincial government, but not the control of the fisheries as regards making regulations for the size of the nets, establishing a close season and such matters. These are in the jurisdiction of the Dominion parliament. And when we make regulations governing these matters, we ought to have officers to see that they are observed.

Mr. BLAIN. I am very much surprised that if there were such a complaint against the Ontario government, as my hon. friend alleges, it should not have been ventilated in the local legislature. I never heard that this tremendous complaint against the Ontario government has ever been mentioned in the local legislature.

Mr. CLARKE (Essex). If it has not been mentioned there, I have had several complaints from several fishermen along the line I have stated.

Mr. BLAIN. I am very much surprised that if the local government have been taking away the licenses from the fishermen and giving them to political friends of their own, no such charge was ever made in the local legislature. It cannot be such a very grave charge, but evidently is only one of these political charges, which my hon. friend wants to make use of. But what my hon. friend wants particularly is that this government should issue licenses. Does my

hon. friend suggest for a moment that, if the license was issued by this government, it would be more free from partisanship than those issued by the province of Ontario?

Mr. CLARKE (Essex). I never heard any of these complaints from fishermen of either political party under the former administration of the province. I do not mean to say that this government alone could issue a license. I think it is conceded that the Ontario government has power to give licenses. What I say is that if a license is required from here also, then one would be a check upon the other and we should not be likely to hear the complaints that we hear now.

Mr. BLAIN. The point is that my hon. friend (Mr. Clarke, Essex), is anxious that this government should issue licenses to fishermen in the province of Ontario. The grievance he has in mind is that the Ontario government issues licenses. I do not think it would make much change if what he contends for were granted. The people would not have any more faith in this government than in the Conservative government headed by Sir James Whitney. In fact, I think they would have less faith.

Mr. CLARKE (Essex). Why do they come to me?

Mr. BLAIN. Because they think that my hon. friend (Mr. Clarke, Essex), has power with this government. He has taken up their case at once and says: I am not in favour of the Ontario government granting licenses; they do not know how to administer anything except in the interest of the Conservative party. But come to this Dominion government and we will give you equal rights. The hon. gentleman nods his head. He does not believe it, of course. But that is not the point, and I am not going to enter into a discussion of the fishing interests of Ontario. But what I do say is that this is a very alarming charge, and I think that on reconsideration my moderate friend from Essex (Mr. Clarke) would not repeat it in this House.

Mr. SPROULE. Does the Dominion government issue licenses to fish in the Georgian bay? Does it propose to do so?

Mr. BRODEUR. The federal government is not issuing any licenses in the province of Ontario. We have the right to do so, but we have not exercised that right.

Mr. SPROULE. I can only say with regard to the observations of my hon. friend from South Essex (Mr. Clarke), that they are a surprise to me. I know something of the Georgian Bay fishery. For two or three years in succession I drew attention to the unfortunate condition of this industry; as between the two governments it was not