

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Those things would have to be worked out by the commissioners, under the regulations.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: Yes. As the livelihood of 4,000 families is involved in this, I think I may be pardoned for taking whatever time is necessary, even on a busy night like this, to introduce a discussion on this subject. Perhaps I may also be pardoned for suggesting that the Department should seriously consider whether Article VII means that an agreement has been arrived at between the negotiators that traps are to be used by the Canadian as well as the American fishing interests. If it should be found that this is the meaning of the article, I submit that the Department should consider, before it is too late, what is to happen to the 4,000 fishermen who are now dependent on net fishing for the livelihood of themselves and their families. More is involved than simply the daily labour of these men, because a net fisherman's equipment, including boats and nets, costs between \$1,000 and \$1,500. To these people this represents the savings of perhaps a lifetime. Most of them possess nothing else, except the little houses in which they live and small gardens attached thereto. If traps are used at the mouth of the Fraser, that means that 4,000 families will be absolutely ruined. The matter of deciding whether traps shall be used is not one for the Commission to decide. The convention distinctly protects both countries by the provision that the fishing shall be done under the laws of the State of Washington—that is, with traps—and under the laws of the Dominion of Canada, which have hitherto permitted the use of nets only. This Government now have the responsibility of deciding whether or not there shall be any change in this connection.

I have pleaded in this House many times for the appointment of a British Columbia business man as Minister of Fisheries. I have justified the request on the ground that the fisheries of British Columbia are the most important in Canada: their annual value, even now, when the catch is comparatively small, is one-half the total value of all Canadian fisheries. The fisheries problems of the Pacific greatly outweigh those of the Atlantic. I submit that we are entirely justified in asking that we should have as Minister of Fisheries someone who possesses a reasonable knowledge of the fishing conditions and possibilities on the Pacific; someone who will take into account, immediately after his appointment, the situation of the net fishermen. We need someone who can discuss intelli-

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gently with his colleagues the question whether the Government of Canada should take a stand for the benefit of the 4,000 net fishermen or for those who desire to use the more modern, more efficient and perhaps cheaper means of traps.

It may be contended that if traps are permitted and the net fishermen can no longer successfully prosecute their calling, they can find some other work to do in a large and prosperous province like British Columbia. That is true, but the trouble is that another serious problem at once arises. There are 2,000 Japanese net fishermen, who are devoted to this calling to the exclusion of everything else. They have been encouraged in this work, because they are less objectionable on the water, in a calling to which they seem to take naturally, than they would be on shore. If we make it impossible for these Japanese fishermen to earn their livelihood by net fishing, they will come ashore in the Fraser Valley and compete with the small fruit growers, poultry men and gardeners. The Oriental competition is already too intense and has been the subject of complaint for many years past.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: How long has that Japanese colony been there?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: The Japanese have been fishing there for at least twenty-five years. They had 3,000 licences, but the policy of the Government in recent years has been to reduce the number of Japanese licences, and the number is now down to about 2,000. White fishermen have petitioned the Department not to restrict further the number of Japanese licences. No reason has been given for the request, but it has been acted upon by the Department. Those who are conversant with the situation know that white people made the petition because they realized that the Japs are less objectionable if they confine themselves to the river than if they are encouraged to devote themselves to fruit growing, poultry raising and gardening. The Japanese problem is acute, but I am not blaming the Government for that. However, that is another reason why the portfolio of Minister of Fisheries should go to someone who is acquainted with the conditions in British Columbia.

Appointments to portfolios are very often based on political reasons, and sometimes the person chosen for the petition is not particularly well suited for it. The people of British Columbia are apprehensive that they may get no real help from the new Minister of Fisheries, and it is felt that if the situation