

As the hon. member for Bonaventure said a moment ago, in the province of Quebec there is an abnormal situation. The federal government has transferred the whole of the maritime fisheries of the St. Lawrence river to the provincial government; nevertheless, it kept under its supervision and control that part of the maritime fisheries pertaining to the Magdalen islands, which, as you know, belong to the province of Quebec. We find, therefore, on the one hand, that the maritime fisheries of the province of Quebec in the St. Lawrence river have been transferred to the government of that province, while on the other hand, the maritime fisheries in the gulf of St. Lawrence have been transferred to Halifax, because the fisheries of the Magdalen islands in the gulf of St. Lawrence are under the control of Nova Scotia.

It appears, therefore, that this agreement, which was entered into, is not only illegal and ultra vires but is absolutely ridiculous, and it is detrimental to the interests of the fishermen. I appreciate the fact that the minister cannot immediately put an end to that agreement, because it is bilateral: both the federal and the provincial governments are committed to it, so that without first having received a request from the provincial government for its abrogation, the minister cannot put an end to it. I have in my hand documents showing that the provincial government does not at present wish to have the agreement abrogated, but if that is not possible just now, owing to the fact that the government of the province of Quebec does not wish it, nevertheless I think we ought to do something for the fisheries of that province. And one thing which in my opinion is absolutely necessary is the establishment of a fisheries office in Quebec, which would begin to supervise conditions in the province, make a thorough investigation and suggest to the government the proper steps to be taken to meet the situation that exists there.

A moment ago my hon. friend from Comox-Alberni showed some surprise at the figures I gave. I have here the figures showing the revenue of the fishermen of Canada for the year 1930, and I find that the per capita revenue in British Columbia was \$1,194.

Mr. NEILL: Who says that?

Mr. GAGNON: I am giving this from the statistics for 1930.

[Mr. Gagnon.]

Mr. NEILL: But who says it?

Mr. GAGNON: As my hon. friend knows, the Year Book is published by the Department of Trade and Commerce, but the articles are not signed. But these figures have been compiled by the technicians and experts of that department. They were taken from the memorandum submitted to the provincial government by the fishermen of Bonaventure and Gaspé. I did not invent these figures myself; they were quoted in the memorandum submitted by the fishermen who asked the provincial government to do something to put an end to the illegal agreement which was entered into in 1922. As I say, the per capita revenue of fishermen in British Columbia for the year 1930 was \$1,194, whereas in the province of Quebec it was only \$206. According to the officials of the department, during the last ten years the annual average revenue of the fishermen of Quebec has diminished rather than grown. In 1920, the average earnings were \$398, while by 1930, they had dropped to \$206.

I do not wish to take up the time of the committee any longer except to say that I respond to the invitation given by the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcell) who stated that I ought to ask the government to help the fishermen and farmers of Quebec. I do not intend to ask hon. members to read my speeches, but on April 15 last I was courageous enough to ask the government of the day to do for the eastern farmer as much as it was doing for the western farmer.

Before taking my seat, I ask the minister to try to satisfy the fishermen of Quebec and establish a fishery bureau which I know will prove to be as useful as similar establishments which have been created in connection with other departments, especially the Department of Agriculture. On April 15 last I stated that dual establishment, dual legislation and dual administration in connection with the same subjects were not in the interests of the people. It is absolutely against the public interests for the government of Quebec and the federal government to devote their energies concurrently to the same subjects, but we cannot change the situation brought about by confederation. This situation can be remedied only by calling together as soon as possible a provincial conference to study ways and means of preventing dual