

Supply—Fisheries

mentioned. I can assure the Minister of Fisheries and his department that in the past 40 years these salmon have not been worth \$400 to the fishermen in my county. Last year I went out to the Digdeguash river when the salmon were running and there were thousands and thousands of salmon there. There were many people also who wanted to catch the salmon, but they just would not take, the fly although I was told by some who stayed a little late, after some of the officials had disappeared, that they would take a sunken bait.

I think the time has come to find out whether they will take a sunken bait. I think the time has come to go ahead and develop these rivers for sports fishing because I know that the revenue they would derive in this area from sports fishing would be a great deal more than we have ever derived from commercial fishing. If it were undertaken as a proper development I am sure we would not have a sufficient amount of salmon to make commercial fishing successful to any great number of fishermen. In certain parts of our province some of the salmon pools are sold to non-Canadians while our own fishermen are denied the right to fish in those pools.

I do not support this action even though it has been taken by both Liberal and Conservative provincial governments. I am still opposed to that method. I believe the salmon pools in the province of New Brunswick should be open to the citizens of New Brunswick and not sold to non-citizens from any country.

Mr. Churchill: The United States of America, that is un-American.

Mr. Stuart (Charlotte): In reply to my hon. friend I will give him an idea of what that means in dollars and cents. I believe the Minister of Fisheries will find if he looks back in his records it is estimated that the salmon which are taken out of the Miramichi river are worth about \$5 a pound to those who take them out. That may be all right but I do not believe our citizens should be denied the right to fish for salmon in our own rivers in New Brunswick.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Go home Yankee, go home.

Mr. Stuart (Charlotte): What was that again?

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): I just quoted that well-known expression "Go home Yankee, go home".

Mr. Pickersgill: With approval.

Mr. Stuart (Charlotte): Yes, with approval?

[Mr. Stuart (Charlotte).]

During recent years, in fact during the last two years, our provincial government has made every effort to develop tuna fishing on the west side of the bay of Fundy. I was on the water there for 25 years and when this idea was first in the minds of the officials in Fredericton I predicted that it would never be a successful venture because in my experience on the bay of Fundy there is only one year in eight when tuna fish appear. I am told by the fisheries research board—and it seems most reasonable to me—that the only time we ever get tuna fish is when our water temperature is higher than normal. For that reason I thought it was a most unreliable undertaking and something that would never be successful.

We nevertheless have spent many thousands of dollars in trying to develop a tuna fishery there. I believe we have an industry in sports fishing and that such a sports fishing in this area would mean thousands and thousands of tourist dollars. We have, for instance, pollack which is one of the finest fish that ever came out of the sea. It is a game fish and it may be caught in the hundreds, in fact last year it was caught in the thousands. I believe in the development of these fishing grounds where the fish can be caught and I believe it might be well for the Department of Fisheries to consider placing a great deal more emphasis on sports fishing in areas where the tourist can take advantage of it.

To support what I have said I want to quote from a bulletin which I will hand to the minister when I have finished because I am sure he will be most interested in it. This bulletin is published by the sports fishing institute of Washington and it has this to say:

The first national survey of fishing and hunting in the United States was carried out during January and February 1956 by Crossley, S-D Surveys, Incorporated, New York City, for the U.S. fish and wild life service. It revealed that 25 million sportsmen, sportswomen and sports-youngsters spent \$3 billion on 500 million days of outdoor recreation while fishing and hunting during 1955.

America's most popular form of outdoor recreation—sport fishing—contributed the lion's share to the financial pot. About 21 million anglers fished regularly in 1955 and poured \$2 billion—an amount greater than Canada's total national defence budget item—into U.S. business coffers in 1955. These Americans invested a major share of their total leisure time—about 400 million days—relaxing by means of the contemplated sport. Individually, anglers spent about \$92 each year on the needs of their sport. They also utilized 19 days of their annual leisure time out fishing at an average daily cost of nearly \$5.

To a considerable extent anglers pursued their sport afloat in outboard motor-powered boats. This fact was not given the emphasis it deserves in the survey report published by the fish and wildlife service.