

sents very fully and very fairly the opinion of the public of Ottawa in relation to the manner in which this noble river is being destroyed by refuse and saw-dust from the mills. If it were impossible to prevent this evil, then there might be some excuse for continuing it, but I believe it is admitted that there is no impossibility about applying a remedy to the grievance complained of. There are mills on the Ottawa River, one especially, owned by Mr. Edwards at Rockland, in which appliances are in operation for consuming the saw-dust, and there is no reason why similar appliances might not be furnished at every mill on the river, and thus prevent the complete destruction, which will inevitably take place if we do not prevent this practice now. I regret to learn that there is an intention to suspend the operation of the law on the 1st of May, through the influence of which I have just now spoken, an interest which I think is opposed to public opinion, and certainly to the interests of all persons holding property on the Ottawa River, and that the effectiveness and usefulness of the law are likely to be very greatly impaired. Of course, the government have the matter altogether under their control and will take the responsibility of their action. I regret, however, that the policy, which present circumstances indicate, is to prevail. It is not in the right direction in my opinion.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—My hon. friend has expressed my views upon this matter better than I could have done it myself. There is not only the evil to which I have referred, but it will have a prejudicial effect everywhere on other rivers as in the county of Lunenburg. There the law has been enforced in a most arbitrary and tyrannical way. The whole argument of the mill-owners, the most unanswerable defence they make, has been: "Look at the Ottawa River. Under the eyes of Parliament you allow this violation of the law to exist, and you give a preference to the mill-owners on that river over those of us whose mills are located in Nova Scotia." The same rule that applies to the Ottawa River should apply to all rivers. The practice of dumping saw-dust and mill refuse into the water led to the destruction of the river fishery of the La Have River, even before the big gang mills were erected, and it has a demoralizing effect to find that we here, sitting and legislating generally in the

interests of the fisheries and navigation of Canada, spending millions on both, allow such a nuisance as this to exist within sight of the parliament buildings.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN—My hon. friend in his motion here asks for all reports, plans, profiles, etc., in possession of the government. I hope my hon. friend, when he brings up this subject in the House again, will also lay before us the plans and profiles prepared by Mr. Thomas Keefer, which were submitted by me to the House at the time this discussion took place last year. They show very clearly indeed the enormous mischief that is being wrought in the bed of the river, by the increasing extent to which it is being filled up by saw-dust from the mills.

Hon. Mr. CLEMON—I have it here.

Hon. Mr. ALMON—I understand that it is very easy, in constructing a new mill, to build it so that the saw-dust can be caught and destroyed, but that in the case of old mills they are so built, that it is almost impossible to change them, so that the saw-dust can be collected and burnt. That being the case, I think very stringent laws should be enforced with regard to new mills but that old ones should be dealt more leniently with, and the owners should not be put to the immense expense of rebuilding them. Personally, I know nothing about the subject, but the information that I have is from a very good source.

Hon. Mr. SNOWBALL—I am sorry to hear that the government has any intention to interfere with the working of the act as it now stands. Anything that has been said here to-day in reference to the owners of mills, not being able to consume their saw-dust, should have no effect whatever upon the law. In the lower provinces the Fisheries Act has been more stringently enforced than in this part of the country. There the mill-owners were compelled, whether their mills were old or new, to catch and destroy their saw-dust. The expense to the mill-owners has been very great. I, unfortunately, happened to own one of the old mills. We do not find any difficulty whatever in changing the mills; there was a considerable expense, no doubt. Our mills were built over the river just as they are here. When the fishery overseers enforced