

and one other member; and I fail to see why we should now undertake to mutilate and destroy the measure, and render it practically useless.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The hon. gentleman talks about the wisdom of our fishermen: I believe they are wise enough to know how to take care of their interests without being told how to do it. It is for the hon. gentleman to show where there is a less intelligent community of fishermen in the Province for whose benefit this Bill is necessary. Until he can do so, I do not see any necessity for the measure.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—I do not see any objection to the amendment.

HON. MR. POWER—I pointed out the objection. I have shown that it is necessary, in case of a fishing schooner which sends out small boats, whether engaged on the banks or deep-sea fishing. Whenever a vessel goes for such fishing these precautions ought to be taken.

HON. MR. POIRIER—If this Bill is to apply, as I thought at first it would, to smacks going along our shores for mackerel fishing, I will oppose it. I will support it if it applies only to deep-sea and bank fishing, and I will support the amendment which would make it applicable only to such cases.

HON. MR. SCOTT—As I read the Bill, it seems to be plain and easily understood. Small smacks and boats going out from the shore individually are not within the purview of this Bill. It only applies to dories attached to larger vessels going out. Larger vessels sometimes tow out small boats which they send out to fish, and it is to such boats that this Bill is intended to apply. Surely the argument is just as strong whether they are engaged in deep-sea fishing or shallow-water fishing. If they are enveloped in a fog, surely it is a wise precaution to furnish them with a compass, and provisions and water. The Bill applies to boats which are sent out from the schooners.

HON. MR. POIRIER—I apprehend that the hon. leader of the Opposition is not familiar with our fisheries. If he were, he would know that mackerel fishing is carried on in just such a way as he describes.

The big vessel comes along the shores and sends out small boats, for the purpose of seining, for example. Now, those boats would be included in this Bill. Yet what I wish to make clear is, that they should not be included.

HON. MR. POWER—This Bill does not apply to seining or net fishing at all.

HON. MR. POIRIER—It might apply.

HON. MR. PROWSE—The general practice among fishermen during the fishing season is that they make their homes on board their vessels. They live on board day and night, whether they are in the harbor or out at sea, and they have their dories or boats attached to their vessels. When they want to set a net or catch bait they take their boats from the vessel, and therefore the objection of the hon. member for Acadie is well founded, that this Bill would apply to cases of seine fishing. The dories and boats are not on board the vessel, but in tow of the vessel, and the owner and crew live on board the vessel during the entire fishing season.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—When I read this Bill without the amendment suggested I thought it applied only to boats engaged in bank and deep-sea fishing.

HON. MR. POWER—That is what is intended.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—Then there can be no objection to making it clearer.

HON. MR. POWER—I am perfectly willing that the Bill should be confined to the purpose for which it is intended. It was not intended to apply to cases such as those mentioned by the hon. member from Shediac. There is just this difficulty: suppose a schooner is 30 miles off the shore fishing in soundings, the question is, whether she would be held to be engaged in deep-sea fishing. She is not fishing on what are generally known as banks.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Yes; she is.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—I should think it was deep-sea fishing if it was 30 miles from the coast.