

Supply—Fisheries

consequence, so far as the Department of Fisheries is concerned, they are what the hon. member for Prince calls poachers. All they are are eager Scotch producers.

This is my long speech. One year I make a short speech and one year I make a long speech about this little dam, and this is my long speech. Men from this little fishing town of Pender Harbour go to sea and fish off the coast of the riding of Comox-Alberni. They fish off the Queen Charlotte islands in the riding of Skeena, and they fish in Bristol bay off Alaska. They come back in the winter to rest with their families. In years gone by the loggers built a small dam on that lake which held the salt water out. The sockeye salmon went up there, and as you know they go to fresh water lakes. When the dam was there 16,000 to 20,000 sockeye were caught right in the mouth of the little fishing town by the old men, who used to go to the west coast out in the open Pacific, and the children who learned to fish there. It was very satisfactory fishing.

Then the loggers were finished, the dam went out, and there was no more fishing. To these Scotch fishermen it was a pretty easy process of rationalization that when the dam was there the fish were there and when the dam went out there were no fish. Therefore they asked me as their member to have the little dam restored. The cost of the dam is \$2,000. Any one of these fishermen with his family could have put in the dam in two days because the trees are there. However, there are various property rights involved and they would have to consult this and consult that. So I turned to the minister—it was not this minister but the third one before him—and asked for this dam to be built to protect the area. He had an investigation carried out. I am not against college graduates. I do not think anyone in this house spent longer at college than I did. The minister sent these college graduates, biologists and so on to investigate, and one of them fell off a log into the water and lost his notes. We have had more graduates in there looking at the area, but they could not find the fish. To get back to the business of the dam, all we know is that when the dam was there the fish were there, and now that the dam is not there the fish are not there.

I realize I am being unfair to the minister now, but each year there has been \$5,000 in the estimates to replace this dam, and each year there was some reason why it could not be replaced. I write back to some of my Scotch friends at Pender Harbour to tell them why this dam has not been replaced. They say: But Jimmy, you know that when the dam was there the fish were there; now the

[Mr. Sinclair.]

dam is not there, and the fish are not there. Phooey on the department. Then they say: The Minister of Public Works put up a half million dollar small boat harbour for these people farther up the coast; why not this dam?

The Indians own the land on either side of the site of the dam, so I went to see them. I am glad that I am making this speech early in the session, because if it were the last day of the session members on all sides would be shouting "carried". Instead, they are listening to me make this speech. We went to see the head of the Indian band, and there was the secretary, who was a Scotchman, and myself who is a Scotchman. If it had been white men who owned the land on either side, they would have demanded a heavy rental. The Indians said they would agree to take a fee of \$25 per year to permit the dam to be built. I am backing what the minister has done for fisheries in British Columbia; I am asking his support of this project in my riding because I have failed completely to explain to the fishermen in my riding why the dam has not been erected. Members in this house know that I do not fail easily with words. I should like the minister to put on the record the reason why, for the fifth year, the little Sakinaw dam has not been built.

Mr. Mayhew: Mr. Chairman, I did have an opportunity of flying over the Sakinaw river with the member for Coast-Capilano. I did see it, but with extreme difficulty. I cannot imagine how any of our officials could fall into it unless he fell parallel with the stream. I am sure that if he fell across it he would have his feet on one side and his head on the other. We sent one of our officials up there to try to find the salmon, but he came back and said he could not find them. He said that if there were any there must have been too many Scotchmen there with taking ways, because there were not many fish left.

The real reason for the failure to re-establish the dam is due to the fact that we have negotiated with the Indians for the last three years and have agreed on a price, but we are now waiting for the approval of the band. This approval has not yet come to us. We cannot go there and put a dam across this creek until we get permission from the Indian band. If the hon. member can use his good offices to secure the consent of the band, we shall have his dam built inside of six weeks.

Mr. Sinclair: I do not want to be unkind, but some months ago I was at a meeting of the band during which they gave approval. The Indians were very keen for it, because they were great beneficiaries of this dam.