

would not be better to prohibit entirely the catching of lobsters during the months of June, July and August, and allow fishing to take place at a later date. That is absolutely contrary to the views that have prevailed among fishery experts and officers in the past.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Where is Dr. Knight making his observations?

Mr. HAZEN: Dr. Knight is a professor at Queen's college, Kingston. He has been making observations at the biological station at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, at Digby, where lobsters are impounded for observation, and at points along the Nova Scotia coast and Northumberland straits. Last year he was on the Digby coast.

Mr. SINCLAIR: It should not be difficult for scientific men to be certain whether or not the lobster hatcheries are doing good work. We all know what they do. The berries are put in the jars in the hatchery and after they are hatched the little lobster is syphoned out into the sea about three miles from the coast, and we know nothing more about it. The theory we used to get from the scientists was that the little lobster drifted on the surface of the water for several days until his claws formed, and then he sank to the bottom and grew up to be a lobster. That is what we were told. I do not see that there can be any great trouble in ascertaining whether that is true or not. It could be done by actual experiment. It should not be difficult to follow these fry up after they are placed in the water and to ascertain from day to day whether they are still floating on the surface, or are living, or what becomes of them. It is only by actual contact with the lobster hatcheries and fisheries that the scientists can obtain proper knowledge. I think that the scientists should go to the hatchery and stay there and see how these fry get along whether they really do grow up or not. This is a matter of very great importance, as we are spending a great deal of money in the hatching of lobsters, and if there are no results, it is better to know it. We were always of the opinion that, on the coast of Pictou county, with which district my hon. friend from Pictou is more familiar than I, that the hatchery at Caribou was doing good work. There was no part of Nova Scotia, so far as I know, where the catch of lobster was kept up better than on the northern shore served by the hatchery at Caribou. It was one of the earliest hatch-

eries on the coast of Nova Scotia, and we always had the idea that in that region the supply was being maintained. I think the hon. gentleman from Pictou will agree with me in that statement. There is no reason why there should not be similar results in other places. If the minister has a really good officer to investigate, I trust he will ascertain for certain whether the lobster fry that we put in at the sea lives, grows up, and keeps the fisheries going, as we expected them to do, when we spent all this money in establishing these hatcheries.

Mr. MACDONALD: Last summer I met Professor Knight, the gentleman who was conducting the investigation in my county, where there has been a hatchery for a number of years. I was very much impressed with his anxiety to make the investigations as effective as possible. He succeeded in interesting the fishermen of the county in the problem as to how the industry could be served to a greater degree than any man I have seen representing the department in connection with that problem in the past. At various meetings held in the district he explained the process of observation which he was carrying on, that he had been at Digby, or somewhere in that vicinity, where there had been a pond, and he was comparing the results in both places, and, in addition to watching the development of the lobster in the hatcheries, he was experimenting with the production of lobsters in an artificial pond, which he built in the vicinity. One could not help being impressed with the capacity of Dr. Knight. I think he is carrying on good work. He has very strong views in reference to certain matters in connection with lobster propagation and development, which, no doubt, he communicated to the department, and the balance of his judgment, as I understand, was against the continuance of the hatcheries, and rather in favour of the establishment of ponds. I think, as between the two conditions under which he experimented side by side at Caribou, that better results were obtained in one than the other. That is my recollection, but I am not speaking from definite data in the matter. The idea of a fall season was urged by a great many of the fishermen in my district. I do not pretend to speak with any particular knowledge, but this view has been entertained by the fishermen in my county.

Mr. LOGGIE: I do not think it would be in the interests of the fishermen to do away