

of the sea is equally essential to the profitable pursuit of fishing. In his book entitled *The Products of the Sea* Dr. Loir writes:

Just as rational farming proceeds from chemical laboratories, so rational fishing finds in oceanographical laboratories all the elements essential to its development.

The natural resources conservation commission, which has devoted several of its sittings to the study of the fishery problem, has given expression to similar views. If we are to believe the high authorities who have given the deepest thought to this serious question, scientific institutions, study circles, research and demonstration centres have become as indispensable to the promotion of the fishing industry and its proper administration as they are in the case of agriculture. The solution of the problem lies in study and teaching: a technical staff is necessary to provide the required guidance. It would take too long to enumerate the different subjects one must master to qualify as an expert or specialist in fishery matters.

Scientists have not only confined themselves to the thorough investigation of marine life but they have devoted themselves no less intensely to the transformation of the industrial processes in vogue during the last century and to the improvement of commercial methods with a view to obtaining a better return. By 1900 these men were associated together under the name of International Sea Exploration Committee, which is now divided into the following three great intellectual associations:

The International Sea Exploration Committee.
The International Mediterranean Committee.
The International Fishery Research Committee of North America.

The United States, France and Canada are members of the latter committee.

As the fisheries of the province of Quebec have been entirely under the control of the provincial government since 1922 and as the fishery map of our province, according to the annual report on fisheries issued by Ottawa, seems to have been deleted from that of the dominion, it goes without saying that we are not represented on this International Fishery Research Committee of North America. We do not belong to any group as we do in the case of agriculture, and the official circles of our province have appeared to be perfectly satisfied with this state of affairs, at least up to the last session of the legislature. They have not even thought of providing us with an intelligent nomenclature of the fish varieties to be found in the province of Quebec. Our provincial fishery service is composed of

[Mr. Gagnon.]

a staff which lacks scientific, industrial and commercial training. After eight years of groping there are no institutions of learning, there are no demonstration establishments and the service is powerless and absolutely incapable of solving the many problems which arise. The lamentable failure of its undertakings in connection with porpoise destruction, refrigeration construction and so on justifies amply the criticism which has been directed against it. Establishments of this kind have existed for several years in all parts of Europe, even in the least advanced countries such as Esthonia, Bulgaria and so on. Establishments are to be found in the British, Italian and French colonies and even Indo-China. The fishermen of the province of Quebec are placed at a disadvantage when compared with those of Indo-China who enjoy a leadership which keeps in contact with modern progress.

For about twenty-five years prior to 1922 public opinion in the province of Quebec was misled by the constantly reiterated claim that the organization of our fisheries depended upon the question of jurisdiction. This formed the subject of endless discussions between Quebec and Ottawa. It will be remembered that since 1898 there has been a constant conflict between the governments at Quebec and Ottawa with regard to jurisdiction. Three cases have been submitted by the courts of the province of Quebec for decision by the privy council. British Columbia had to cope with the same difficulty but that province was parietical enough to use them as a pretext to delay the organization of its fisheries. In spite of its conflicts, it never ceased to co-operate with Ottawa, and at the present time that province possesses two marine biological stations located at Prince Rupert and Nanaimo, and also a well organized and complete fishery service which, according to the statement of the former Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) on April 3, 1922, costs the federal treasury \$400,000 a year and yields but a trifling revenue. On the other hand, the maritime provinces led by practical men have applied themselves with sincerity and perseverance to the study of the various aspects of the fishing industry. Instead of fighting the federal authorities and confusing the minds of the people, they have cooperated with them in order to strengthen their hand. As early as 1900 the maritime provinces had a marine biological station located at St. Andrews, the first of its kind in Canada. Later, about 1922, under the direction of Professor Cobb, of Washington university, they founded the Halifax Fishery School at a cost of \$100,000 provided by the federal government. A few