

inspection. The member for Lambton suggested that in view of the fact that the fishing interests were so important there, it would be as well that there should be a fish hatchery established at some point on Lake Huron. I may say that some years ago I applied to have a fish hatchery established somewhere in the East Riding of Grey, and I did so because I found that a large quantity of ova was collected for the fish hatcheries around here, including, I believe, the one at Ottawa and another at Newcastle. As this ova was carried from Meaford, I thought it would be the best place to have a fish hatchery established, because they would then only have a short distance to transport the ova, and when the fish fry were ready to put in the lake again, it would save the trouble of taking them so great a distance and leave them in a better condition. I think there ought to be a fish hatchery established somewhere in that vicinity. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries, although he has always promised me that he would consider it, has never been able to see his way clear to establish a fish hatchery there up to the present time. I hope he will do so before long. I may say that the people in our section feel so strongly upon this question that not only have those who are engaged in the fishing interest taken it up, but the merchants in the various towns and the County Council have taken it up, and have memorialized the department regarding the necessary changes in the law. I have submitted those representations to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries who very kindly informed me that he was about to introduce a measure that would deal with this subject, and that every attention would be given to the suggestions made in various quarters which would, as far as possible, cure the evils complained of. In view of the fact that this subject has come before the House at the present moment, I thought it due to my constituents that I should speak on this question and present their views to the Government.

Mr. EDGAR. There is one point that occurs to me which seems worthy of some attention, and which is one of very great importance in reference to the fish supply of the cities and towns of Ontario. Now, until I heard the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) speak, I was unable to account for a most extraordinary circumstance in connection with the fish supply for the city of Toronto. Some years ago it was quite possible to obtain daily the most delicious fresh whitefish, either from Lake Huron or from Lake Ontario; but for some years past it has been almost impossible to purchase in Toronto, from any dealer there at retail, any whitefish which are fit to eat. I have often complained about that matter and spoken to dealers in regard to it. The fish brought down from Lake Huron on ice and sold, are not like whitefish, but are like suckers, and are unfit for food. I can now understand, from the description which the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) has given the House of the mode of catching these fish, why this is so. Of course, if the fish are caught in gill nets and allowed to remain in the water dead some days and nights, they are unfit for human food when brought out and put on ice and sent to Toronto and other cities of Ontario. I do not think many subjects come before the Minister of Marine and Fisheries of more importance than this one of the food sup-

ply of the large cities of the inland provinces, and if, as the hon. gentleman for Lambton (Mr. Lister) says, it is within his knowledge that this gill-net fishing is so productive of that result that large numbers of fish when taken out are unfit for food, having been dead for a long time; and if Mr. Wilmot has strongly reported against this system of gill-net fishing, as is alleged, I sincerely trust that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries will take some steps to abolish it, so that the people of this country may again be proud, as they were formerly, of the delicious whitefish of our inland lakes. There was no fish of which we were more proud in Toronto than our whitefish, and we would tell strangers that we had fish better than salmon and even better than any fish that came from the sea in our whitefish. It is not once in ten times that a resident can now obtain whitefish fit to eat in Toronto. It is a very serious question and should be carefully considered in that light.

Mr. MACDONELL (Algoma). I think I understood the member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) to say that there were too many fishing licenses granted on Lake Superior.

Mr. LISTER. Lake Huron.

Mr. MACDONELL (Algoma). I have only to say this in regard to pound-nets and gill-nets: Very many hon. gentlemen are not aware that there are inland waters where it is impossible to catch fish with pound-nets. The waters are too deep to fish with those nets, and consequently gill-nets must be used. Pound-nets are only used near the shore and in the bays of the great lakes. In Lake Superior, for instance, pound-nets cannot be used outside in deep water, and, therefore, gill-nets must be used. They float deep in the water, and it is the exception that fish are dead when taken out. During a few days in stormy weather fishermen are not able to visit their nets, and, consequently, some dead fish are found in them. I quite agree with the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) in the recommendation for a fish hatchery on Lake Superior. Since I have been a member of this House I have brought the subject to the notice of the Minister of Marine, and I hope he will see his way clear to give us what we ask in that regard. With respect to the net, I think that if an universal mesh was used, at least in our district, it would be satisfactory to our fishermen. I was rather amused to hear the hon. member for Lambton speak of the recommendations fishermen make. My experience in the District of Algoma, where probably the greatest inland fishery in Canada exists, is that the fishermen, instead of wanting to have any of their privileges curtailed, want to fish all the year round, and the great difficulty in that district is to see that they do not commit illegal fishing. With regard to the fishing in Lake Superior—with Lake Huron and Georgian Bay I am not so familiar—the department to-day has one of the most efficient and energetic officers it could possibly obtain. The official who preceded him was changed some time last year, and the present overseer has undoubtedly shown himself to be a capable and energetic officer, and I think the department will find, after they have had some experience of the gentleman who now occupies the position, that it has made an excellent change. I will be sorry to see gill-nets done away with, because it would destroy the means of livelihood of many people on the