

District No. 2.—Inspector O. B. Sheppard,
Sarnia.—*Con.*

Nominee.	Headquarters.	District.
E. Thiverge . . .	Clarence Creek..	Russell & Prescott.
C. McLean . . .	Ottawa	Carleton.
T. Ellward . . .	Smith's Falls . .	Lanark & Grenville (Inland).
Colin Craig . . .	Sharbot Lake . .	Frontenac & Lennox (Inland).
F. P. McCaffrey	Westport.	Leeds (Inland).
P. Lassman . . .	Pembroke	Renfrew.
E. A. Kennedy..	Bakefield	Peterborough.
Nicholas Brady..	Lindsay	Victoria & Haliburton.
Donald McNiven	Barrie	Lake Simcoe.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). What salaries do these overseers get each?

Mr. BRODEUR. \$500.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). What are their duties to be?

Mr. BRODEUR. They are to look after the carrying out of our fishery regulations. By the judgment rendered on the fishery question in 1897 or 1898, it was decided that the right of legislation concerning the fisheries belonged to the federal authorities.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). In so far as regulating the close seasons was concerned.

Mr. BRODEUR. The close season, the instruments used for carrying on fishing operations, and everything bearing on the preservation and regulation of the fisheries. At the same time, it was decided in view of the proprietary rights of the provinces, that they had a right to issue licenses. In Quebec that right has been exercised in one section of the province. The other section, the most important one, that is, the section below a line drawn through the St. Lawrence from Cap Chatte to Pointe des Monts, is to be under the federal authorities. In Ontario, the provincial government, took authority to issue licenses, and I understand appointed some officers to look after the carrying out of their regulations; but these officers have no specific authority with regard to our regulations. We had only three officers to carry out our regulations. As a result, a great many complaints were made that our regulations were not being properly observed. For example, in the fall of 1907 there were complaints that the close season for whitefish was being openly violated in the Georgian bay, which is one of the best fishing grounds in the province. The inspector of fisheries was directed to investigate the conditions and he found that a large quantity of whitefish were being taken in the close season. My

Mr. BRODEUR.

hon. friend will find the same thing if he consults the report of the Georgian Bay Fishing Commission. The unanimous report of that commission indicated there is abundant evidence of illegal fishing. We have, however, no means, of giving instruction to those officers appointed by the local authorities because they are not under our control; and it seems to me that not only should we appoint officers to see to the carrying out of our own regulations, but also to inform us as to any changes which might be required in them. How could we get that information unless we appoint our own officers? We had none except the three inspectors, and we had no opportunity of being in touch with the different fishing districts. We thought, therefore, it was advisable to appoint inspectors and overseers who would see that our regulations were carried out.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). The only real reason which the minister had for these appointments—45 in number in the province of Ontario—is that he wanted to give a salary of \$500 per year each to 45 of his political friends for doing nothing. The only complaint to which he can point as a reason for these appointments is with regard to some illegal fishing having been done in the Georgian Bay in 1907, some four years ago. Since that time he knows that the Ontario government have purchased a boat and have had that district under inspection. He has simply appointed a number of officers to do the work which is now being well done by the provincial government. In my district the fisheries inspectors and officers under the Ontario government are doing efficient work. There was no necessity at all to appoint these 45 men, their appointment will only lead to trouble between them and the officers of the Ontario government, but the hon. minister was anxious to give a fat job to his political supporters.

Mr. CLARKE (Essex). Any one who is familiar with the way in which the present government of Ontario is administering the fishing laws must admit that it is high time something was done to protect the fishermen in that province. For the past few years the complaints of the fishermen have been of the strongest character, and rightly so. Until the administration of the fisheries was taken over by the present government, it was customary for the owners of land to get licenses for fishing in the waters adjoining their lands, but at present they are denied this privilege. The licenses have been taken away from practical fishermen and given to men who have no experience, but who are political friends of the party in power in Ontario, and these men make their profit by subletting their licenses to other fishermen. Another complaint was