

*Supply—Fisheries*

is why I was so keen about having them accorded the right to vote. I have always said that I feel that people who vote get more consideration, but that does not apply to the present minister. I know that he is going to give this matter very serious consideration. I should like to think that he will recognize the fact that our Indians have some aboriginal rights. I think the Indian is the first one to say that probably a sufficient quantity of our seals should be maintained or protected, but when that whole herd of three million seals goes past they figure they have a vested aboriginal right in them, and I think it is a little too restrictive not to allow them to take any of them.

As a suggestion, I would say that when the minister discusses this problem with the United States authorities he might say to them: We have probably 1,000 male Indians out on the coast who originally had access to these seals. Suppose we give them the privilege of taking fifteen skins apiece each year.

**Mr. Mayhew:** Who would police them?

**Mr. Gibson:** After all, they would only have a permit to take fifteen skins so that is all they could sell. It would be reasonable enough.

**Mr. Mayhew:** Have you never heard of bootlegging?

**Mr. Gibson:** I do not think our Indians would go that far. It would seem to me that we would have a reasonable argument if we would say to these people: We recognize your aboriginal rights. With the great white father in the United States and the great white father here in Canada the Indians say that now they are not allowed to have any more interest in these seals. The government is getting \$820,000 in taxes, and I am sure the Indian will look at that with a very jaundiced eye. It seems to me that some agreement should be reached with the United States so that our Indians, who have these aboriginal rights, will at least be able to get some of these seals not only for food but also for their value as fur. Nothing would be lost to anybody, and it would seem to me to be reasonable if that course were undertaken.

**Mr. Mayhew:** What the hon. gentleman is suggesting is that we give the Indians the right to pelagic sealing. That is something that we do not give the white man. We are trying to make the Indians real Canadian citizens and give them all the rights of Canadian citizenship, but surely they are not going to ask for greater rights than other Canadians.

[Mr. Gibson.]

**Mr. Gibson:** We allow them to fish salmon for food in the fall. You give them a permit for that.

**Mr. Mayhew:** We do not allow any pelagic sealing. We do not allow anyone to kill seals while they are in the water.

**Mr. Gibson:** You do not allow him to go and catch dog salmon in the fall either, but the Indians have certain aboriginal rights.

**Mr. Mayhew:** We are not taking any of those rights away from them, but I do not think this is the time to give them something different so far as sealing is concerned. They have a right now that no white man has. They can catch seals by certain methods, with a boat and harpoon, and some of them have done not too badly. I would not think that the hon. member would be serious in saying that they should be given the right to pelagic sealing.

**Mr. Gibson:** Of course if the contention is right that the \$820,000 we get costs us \$6 million in the form of salmon or other fish when the seals are going through, there may be no validity to that argument at all, but it certainly costs something to feed these seals.

**Mr. Mayhew:** That has nothing at all to do with Indians engaging in pelagic sealing. That is an entirely different question. In the only examination that was carried out it was found that the seals were living on squid and herring, and not on salmon.

**Mr. Gibson:** No salmon?

**Mr. Mayhew:** No salmon, although I think if they were hungry they would catch a salmon. I think we should know more about the habits of the seal, and we intend to find out more.

**Mr. Gibson:** After all, I do not think we are making any actual profit on this. I would not like to see the seals extinct, but on the other hand it seems to me there is not too much profit in the whole business. Besides that we are making a lot of bad friends among the Indians.

At six o'clock the Speaker resumed the chair and the house took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

**PRIVATE BILLS**

**Mr. Speaker:** I notice that there are two pipe line bills on the order paper which are to be considered by the house in committee of the whole. Is it the pleasure of the house-