

sonally acquainted with the guardians in the county I represent, and working with them for quite some time myself, I feel I am in a position to say they are reliable citizens, doing a fine job for starvation wages. I think the department should consider paying these guardians, who in most cases, as I have said, are returned soldiers, a living wage.

Much can be done to improve this industry by sincere cooperation between this department and the fishermen. If every official from the highest to the lowest could be convinced that he is paid not only to make and enforce regulations, and I might add that there are plenty, but also to study the problems confronting the fishermen from coast to coast, to associate with them in a friendly manner, imparting knowledge acquired by that study where it would be beneficial and appreciated, then everyone would be benefited. From experience I would say that too many officials see only one part of their obligation, that of enforcing regulations. That may be essential, but it does not require great knowledge of the fishing industry; or it may not prove to be a great credit to the official. I sincerely hope that in the future this department will seriously consider the importance of arming these officers with knowledge of the fishing industry, not with firearms to carry while on official duty as has been done in the past and is being done at the present time. An officer's efficiency cannot always be gauged by the number of infractions of regulations reported, or by the number of prosecutions secured, although this is the yardstick commonly used by this department.

In conclusion may I say that I am personally acquainted with practically every fisherman in the county I represent, having been associated with them during the time I was engaged in this industry myself, for over twenty years, and I feel I have some knowledge of the difficulties they have to contend with. Long hours of exposure and hard work mean nothing to these men if they can make the living which they justly deserve. I have endeavoured to point out the situation regarding markets and the absolute necessity of cooperation between the fishermen and the fisheries departments of these two countries, since we are obliged to look to our neighbours for the markets we have always enjoyed. We are also dependent upon the cooperation of all departments of the government to see to it that those privileges are preserved which mean so much to the fishermen of Charlotte and the maritime provinces. The men who go down to the sea in ships have over a period

of years built up a friendly international spirit which might be copied with great benefit and credit by other parts of this dominion.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a few minutes to discuss certain phases of the fisheries industry. I also represent a fishing constituency, that of Comox-Alberni. While perhaps I cannot say that it is the best fishing constituency in Canada, I can say to the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg that it probably produces the most fish. I welcome the suggestion of the hon. member that we who represent fishing communities should work together and cooperate rather than endeavour to create rivalry between the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. In that I am in complete agreement.

I notice that the agricultural members in the house have achieved great success in, shall I say, assaulting the treasury. They have made an excellent job of this. I notice that every time the agriculture estimates are up those hon. members appear to cooperate wholeheartedly with the Minister of Agriculture in an effort to obtain all the assistance they can for their farmers. I know that the budget for the Department of Fisheries of some \$4,200,000 will not appear like a large sum to members representing agricultural districts. I noticed that one hon. member from Saskatchewan made an appeal for his whitefish. I am glad to see him taking care of the fishermen of his constituency, but I am just wondering, in view of the technique displayed by these agricultural members, if we will not find our appropriation going to the province of Saskatchewan. I am a little bit worried about their skill in that regard.

The hon. member for New Westminster has suggested that the British Columbia members were not pressing their fisheries as much as they should. That may be true. We British Columbians are modest people. We never say much about our climate or our peaches or anything like that. We have always found that if you have a real good product or a real good industry it will be something like mother's pies—they will not need too much praise.

I am sorry there has been so much delay in bringing down these estimates. It was unfortunate that so much time was wasted on the speech from the throne in discussing generalities. I hope that next year we will be able to get down to these matters earlier in the session. We are fortunate in having so many British Columbia members still present in the house. They must have been lucky with their train reservations.