

the people on the Quebec side complained of it; or it might be that gentlemen wished to preserve the rivers of that Province, and the only way to do so was by the issuing of licenses. The income of revenue was derived from these rivers, the amount received from the shore and deep sea fisheries amounting to comparatively nothing.

MR. MITCHELL: You do not understand it.

MR. GOUDGE said he understood it very well. His hon. friend (Mr. Mitchell) was desirous of doing now what he dared not do when in power: he wished to increase the taxation of the Nova Scotian fishermen. If any class should be exempt from taxation, it was the hardy but poor fishermen of that Province; besides, a very large portion of the fish was from deep sea fisheries, consequently the argument of his hon. friend fell to the ground. They should resist this tax, or any attempt to force a system upon them that was not required.

MR. MITCHELL said he agreed with the principle that the tax upon the fish caught should be swept away, but considered a registration fee was necessary to keep the fisheries under the control of the Department. He said it was right to have such a system of registration to give the Department proper control, but be objected to its being applied to New Brunswick and not to Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island, and he believed the hon. Minister of Marine would extend it to those Provinces, and to the other Provinces of the Dominion.

MR. McINNES said that from the discussion which had been going on for the last hour or hour and a half, one would almost arrive at the conclusion that the only fisheries in the Dominion of Canada were in the neighbourhood of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He desired to inform this House that such was not the case, that the western extremity of the Dominion had important fisheries, and that if a tax was proposed to be imposed on the fishermen of that Province, he considered a great injustice would be done from the fact that they, in British Columbia, did not enjoy the advantages of the

Fisheries Clause of the Washington Treaty, which enabled Ontario and the other Provinces to send their fish free of duty into the American market. He must certainly, very strongly object to any tax being placed on the fisheries of British Columbia until such times as they were placed on a par with the rest of the Provinces in other respects. On the Fraser River, at the present time, they had no less than five establishments, shipping something like 125,000 cases of fish per annum, and if any restriction was placed upon them, it would be a great injustice. He considered, however, that the Government ought to establish a hatchery there as early as possible, in order to preserve that industry.

MR. GOUDGE said the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell) seemed to think the fishermen of Nova Scotia at present possessed an advantage over those of New Brunswick, and was most anxious that both should be taxed alike. He told them that this tax was only for the purpose of control; if so, they had no need of it in Nova Scotia. The Minister of Marine might use his discretion about taking this tax off New Brunswick, but he (Mr. Goudge) and his colleagues should certainly object to its being applied to Nova Scotia.

MR. PALMER said the last speaker had objected to this system being applied to Nova Scotia, on the ground that New Brunswick consented to join the Union and Nova Scotia did not. If this was a ground for the two Provinces being treated differently with regard to this question, he thought the principle should apply with regard to other matters.

MR. MACDONNELL said this discussion arose from the fact that New Brunswick gave a certain tax which the hon. member for Northumberland complained did not exist in Nova Scotia. There should be no tax on the fishermen of this country, for the purpose of adding to the exchequer of this Dominion; any tax imposed should be for the purpose of improving the fisheries. The hon. member for Northumberland, while admitting there should be no tax for the purpose of

MR. GOUDGE.