

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: May I ask the honourable senator from St. John's (Hon. Mr. Baird) a question? Can he tell me whether the extensive powers which this bill would give to the inspecting officers were contained in the bill under which the Act was set up? For instance, I note that this measure provides that the protection officer—who is an inspector of some kind, no doubt—may:

(a) go on board of any fishing vessel found within Canadian territorial waters and stay on board so long as she remains within Canadian territorial waters,

(b) bring the fishing vessel into port and search her cargo, and

(c) examine the master or any member of the crew upon oath touching the cargo and voyage.

And whenever an officer suspects an offence against the Act he may seize a vessel or any goods aboard it; he may arrest without warrant anyone he reasonably suspects, and he may retain possession of the goods seized, or deliver them to the minister. Strangely enough, he may keep the vessel and the goods so seized for a period of three months before he need lay an information against the accused. I am "from Missouri" when it comes to considering a measure which would extend such powers to officials. In my opinion, these powers are very drastic, and I am interested in knowing whether they are contained in the Act or are new provisions.

Hon. Thomas Reid: Before the question is answered—because in the light of what the speaker has said, the honourable sponsor may close the debate with his answer—I should like to say a word about the bill before us.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: But I want the question answered.

Hon. Mr. Reid: May I first say to the honourable leader of the government that I am pleased to see upon my return to the house a well-filled Order Paper. The government deserves to be complimented for the early introduction of this volume of legislation.

I am particularly pleased to note that the government is moving forward in its legislation affecting fisheries, for if any field of legislation has been neglected over the years, it is that of the fisheries. One has only to look at the explanatory notes to the bill to learn the history of this legislation. The original Act was first passed in 1868, and the first amendment followed forty-five years later, and now we find further proposed changes thirty-nine years after the passage of the first amendment.

One means of protecting our Canadian fisheries which requires attention and is not provided for in this measure, is that affecting the building of dams on rivers to the detriment of the fishery industry. May I

say to my fellow senators from Newfoundland that British Columbia is one of the greatest fishing provinces in the entire dominion.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: Second to Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. Reid: I have quoted figures many times to show that the fisheries of British Columbia exceed those of the combined provinces of Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, yet there are those who are apt to regard British Columbia as only a land of mountains and forest. Our halibut, herring and salmon alone are produced in such quantities as to overshadow the production of the other provinces. However, I do not wish to enter into that phase of the debate tonight. Perhaps I may do so another time, if the occasion arises.

I should like to draw the attention of the government to one particular matter affecting our fisheries on the Pacific which I think should be dealt with in this bill. I am a member of the International Pacific Salmon Fishing Commission, set up by the governments of Canada and the United States for the protection of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River, an industry which produces values annually of many millions of dollars. Under the treaty approved by the two countries the commission is empowered to go out on the high seas and control fishing in areas where the salmon congregate after leaving the lakes as young fingerlings, and where they live and feed until they eventually return to the lakes and rivers of British Columbia to spawn and die. A great many vessels from the United States, and some from Canada, go to these areas to fish. We have put regulations into effect to control them in so far as sockeye salmon are concerned, and I am pleased that such regulations have not as yet been challenged. These regulations in effect control Canadian fishermen, because we have no right to stop fishermen from the United States from fishing these areas to which I refer. During the past two years regulations have been issued controlling Canadian fishermen fishing during the open sockeye salmon season. Although these regulations are provided for under the treaty, there is the problem of enforcing them. Some interests are heard to complain, when an attempt is made to give power to the authorities for the protection of the fisheries that we are interfering with the freedom of the seas.

I should like some of my honourable friends to see the large boats and extensive gear which come to fish in our waters. I am quite sure that the equipment that is brought in by high-powered vessels on the off-shores of the west coast is far more extensive than that used in the Atlantic waters. For instance, there are tuna fishing