

appropriation for the creation of oyster-beds, or oyster-breeding?

Mr. POPE. It is not intended to expend any money on those oyster-beds, though it is very desirable our people should take greater interest in them. It may be necessary that some surveys should be made and reports sent to the department before licenses can be granted for fish propagation.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. I think the explanation of the Minister is not satisfactory. I do not know what he means by surveys of oyster-beds. Is this survey for P. E. Island or New Brunswick? Is it intended to grant licenses to persons for the exclusive right to breed oysters?

Mr. POPE. I said the increased expenditure is for the salmon hatcheries, not the oyster-beds. If applications are made, say from New Brunswick, we must be able to say where the grounds are and what beds are there.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. Have you any such applications?

Mr. POPE. The money is not to be expended in that way. It is for hatcheries.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I am glad to see the Minister doing something for the cultivation of the oyster. When the hon. member for Westmoreland (Sir A. J. Smith) was in charge of the department his negligence was the means of running out some of the finest oyster-beds in the world.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. I think that either the hon. Minister should say that he has a policy in the subject or strike out these words, as the vote is a new one.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think my hon. friend the Minister of Marine has given a very full explanation. He wished these words inserted, because there may be applications for encouragement to the oyster trade whenever there are oyster-beds. Unless these words are put in, however reasonable the application may be for a small grant in aid of that fishery, it could not be given. We know that round the coasts of England the oyster has almost disappeared, while by judicious cultivation the quantity of oysters raised along the coasts of the United States have steadily increased. My hon. friend wants to have the cultivation of the oyster encouraged, and in order to provide the means he asks that these words should be inserted.

Mr. POPE. I would like to see the production of the oyster encouraged, and our people take an interest in the matter, as it would eventually become a great source of wealth. There is no better place in the world for the hatching of oysters than on the Bay of Shediac, for instance. If parties go into the trade, it is necessary they should have some protection, and that protection can be afforded with a small expenditure.

Mr. OGDEN. I wish to call the attention of the House to the fact that there is an arm of the sea called Bras d'Or Lake, which contains a large quantity of oysters—they are as fine as any in the world—and very plentiful.

An hon. MEMBER. What! plentiful?

Mr. OGDEN. Yes, plentiful; so much so that they grow upon trees. Hon. members may smile, but if they will have patience I will explain to them the manner in which these oysters are propagated. When the spawn leaves the mother oyster, it attaches itself to the first object with which it comes into contact, a pebble, a blade of grass, a limb of a tree, or a neighboring oyster, which accounts for their being found in clusters, and the limbs of fallen trees on this lake are often literally loaded with oysters.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. What! in a fresh-water lake?

Mr. OGDEN. I am really surprised that the hon. member for Westmoreland, the ex-Minister of Marine

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH.

and a member of the late Government, that spent thousands of dollars in opening the St. Peter's Canal into that lake, should show such a lamentable want of knowledge of the geography of his country. I should not have been surprised had the question been asked by the hon. member for Monck or for Prince Edward, who live near the inland seas of Canada, but I really did expect something better from the ex-Minister of Marine, who ought to know that the Bras d'Or is an arm of the ocean. I have several times called the attention of the Minister to the locality, and am pleased at finding a sufficient sum of money placed at his disposal to enable him to foster and encourage this valuable fishery.

Mr. KILLAM. I would call the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that, in the propagation of fish, he has not given any attention to the four counties in the western part of Nova Scotia, Queen's, Shelburne, Yarmouth and Digby. I do not know that he has planted any salmon spawn in Annapolis county. The hon. gentleman says, he thinks it is much better to have a few large fish hatcheries than to distribute small ones through the Province. I had some hope he would have placed one in my own county. He must be aware that there are a number of rivers there just as good for salmon as any of those in the eastern part of the Province, or in New Brunswick, in which he has been placing spawn to a large extent. I think the means of communication now existing will enable him to stock those rivers without difficulty. I hope the hon. Minister will take steps during the coming season to stock a number of rivers in that part of the Province with some. If he is going to survey for oysters I think he will find in St. Mary's Bay a good field for his operations. There are no oysters, so far as I know, on the coast of America between Boston and the Strait of Canso. Of course, the whole south of the coast of Nova Scotia and some parts of the Bay of Fundy offer a good field for their propagation. St. Mary's Bay is a good place for oysters, and if he will stock it with them we will ultimately have a large commerce in oysters.

Mr. SNOWBALL. In what condition is the Miramichi hatchery, and how many ova are there now in it?

Mr. POPE. I will be prepared to furnish the hon. member with the latest information to-morrow.

Mr. ANGLIN. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction in some of the Maritime Provinces with regard to the manner in which this whole expenditure is managed, and particularly with regard to the fish hatcheries. It is thought by many that New Brunswick has many fine rivers adapted for salmon, but it does not receive proper attention from the Department; that a great deal of money is expended on the western lakes in experiments which, it is said by some, have proved a failure. The hatching of some in the western lakes was productive of no very beneficial results up to last year. Some allege that they never can produce good results, and that the money expended in that way has been wasted. I think there were some special reports on the subject last Session, in which the fact that few salmon had been caught in any of the lakes was controverted by the statement that the salmon remained in deep water for the greater part of the year and did not come into the rivers for propagation. Perhaps the hon. Minister can tell whether there is any prospect of rendering salmon a fish of commerce in those western lakes. It seemed from the first an extraordinary undertaking to endeavor to transplant salmon to those waters, and I think the experiment has not proved successful. It is time we should know what the result of the experiment is. Many millions of fry have been let loose in those waters, and in the natural course of things the propagation should have been great; there should have been an increase from the hatcheries also, and if the experiment was at all successful there should now be a large number of salmon in those western waters. The hon. Minister knows