

LOBSTER FISHERY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. E. MacLEAN (Prince): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask if the acting Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes) has been able to gain any information, and if investigations are being made concerning the matter I brought to his attention yesterday. At that time I read a newspaper report stating that fishing gear had been destroyed by cruisers, and that the fishermen had been fired on by the cruiser Arras.

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Acting Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the moment this matter was brought to my attention yesterday instructions were issued to the supervisor of fisheries in the maritime provinces to make investigations at once. Such investigations will involve travelling from Charlottetown to Halifax. The moment information has been gained it will be given to the house, and if any remedies are necessary they will be applied.

PORTSMOUTH PENITENTIARY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. W. JACOBS (Cartier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) when it is proposed to appoint a permanent warden for Kingston penitentiary?

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, advertisement by the Civil Service Commission is now current, and applications are to be received until November 5 next. After that time I assume a selection will be made.

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

The house resumed from Wednesday, October 26, consideration of the motion of Right Hon. R. B. Bennett (Prime Minister) for approval of the trade agreement entered into at Ottawa the 20th day of August, 1932, between representatives of His Majesty's government in Canada, and His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom, subject to the legislation required in order to give effect to the fiscal changes consequent thereon.

Mr. F. G. SANDERSON (South Perth): Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak in this debate may I say I am fully conscious of my great responsibility, and the duty to my constituents who did me the honour to send me here

as their representative. Further, I am not unconscious of my responsibility as a Canadian citizen and a British subject. In common with every hon. member on this side of the house, I had an open mind in regard to the results, whatever they may have been, coming from the Imperial economic conference. I made up my mind that if out of the conference came results which, after due trial, worked towards alleviating the dire distress in this country, they should have the sympathetic support of hon. members on this side of the house. But Mr. Speaker, after carefully studying the articles and the agreements I am free to admit that of all the great blunders that this government have made since they came into power in 1930 this is perhaps the greatest blunder of all. I am not going into the by-election in South Huron—unless my hon. friends across the floor draw me out—except to say that I marvelled that the government brought on the by-election in South Huron four days before the opening of parliament. I had a suspicion that there was method in their madness, that they had something to conceal. Now I am sure of it. Knowing South Huron as I do, I want to tell the Prime Minister and the government that if they had waited, had called parliament and tabled the results of the imperial conference before holding the by-election, the majority in South Huron instead of being 2,000 would have been 4,000.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to be as fair as I can to the government. I want to give them all the credit I can—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. SANDERSON: —for God knows that if ever a government needed some credit it is this government. So I want to be as sympathetic as I can with the government. To my mind the results of this conference should be regarded in this way: are we satisfied that the results as we know them will give wider markets to the basic industry of this country, namely agriculture, at increased prices? Will it give wider markets at increased prices for the other basic industries, the products of the mines, of the forests, and of the fisheries; and is the consumer and the vast army of unemployed with their wives and families, getting a fair, square, honest deal through the agreements that have been brought down in this house? On the other hand we must consider, and consider carefully, whether the manufacturers' association are getting more than they are entitled to. Are they getting concessions in high protection that will enable them to plunder, if you like, the consumer, the