

had mostly reference to the district where the season closes on the 25th. The commissioner tells me that we will have the report from the district in which my hon. friend is particularly interested by the 10th or 12th, and as there is very nearly a week before the close season, we will be prepared to make an announcement as to whether we shall make an extension or not.

Mr. TURGEON: Has the minister given any attention to the remarks I made the other day?

Mr. HAZEN: In regard to fishing in October?

Mr. TURGEON: Yes.

Mr. HAZEN: I have not been able to give much attention to that question since my hon. friend made the suggestion, although it has been made before. I intend to give attention to it and to get a report on the subject. But I think the best opinion of our fishery officers is that such a course, if it were adopted, would result in the destruction of the lobsters and cause great injury to the fishery in the future. I will get all the information I can on the subject.

Mr. TURGEON: I hope the minister will, because I am not of opinion that fishing in the fall would be more disastrous to the lobster industry than in the spring. I believe that this opinion will be supported by the fishermen on the coast. I see that the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Loggie) has been coming to my way of thinking during the past year or two, and that alone says something.

Mr. HAZEN: It is hard not to come your way.

Mr. MARCIL: This question would not be complete if I did not put in a word for the coast of Quebec. The season is very late there always, starting from the mouth of the Restigouche river, they cannot place lobster traps until the end of May. So the early part of the season is lost, and they have to stop fishing when they have only properly started to work. This spring the season is much later than usual. The spring is fully a month later in Quebec, and so I hope the minister will consider that district when he is considering these points in the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. HAZEN: The district to which my hon. friend refers, I presume, is up at the head of the Baie de Chaleur.

Mr. MARCIL: The whole coast of Quebec.
[Mr. HAZEN.]

Mr. HAZEN: There is not a very large catch. The season is late and the result is that the fishermen do not have a very long time in which to catch lobsters. But the information we have is that if you extend the season there beyond the present date the lobsters are getting in a condition when they are not fit to catch. If you catch them then you destroy them without getting very much in food value in return.

Mr. MARCIL: Why not give a season in the fall, as has been suggested by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Turgeon)? This is an unusual year, food supplies are very scarce, and a trial might be made this year to see the effect of a fall fishing season.

Mr. LOGGIE: How does the minister square his statement that lobsters would not be in good condition after the 25th of June with the fact that in another district he starts the season on the 24th of May and allows it to run until the 10th of August? Does he mean that the lobsters canned in that district are not suitable for food?

Mr. HAZEN: I can only see that it is a bad season, but under the conditions in that district if you did not let them fish at that season you could not let them fish at all. The whole subject is a

5 p.m. most difficult one and it is hard to get fishermen to agree among themselves upon it. It is just the same with the lobster hatcheries, some of which were established before I came into office. We had been hoping that the lobster hatcheries would increase the supply of lobsters, but, as was pointed out by the hon. member for Westmorland (Mr. Copp) the other evening, Professor Knight, after carrying out experiments in connection with the lobster industry, is of opinion that the lobster hatcheries are not only not assisting in increasing the number of lobsters but are a detriment, because you take the female lobster and take the berries from it to send to the hatchery and then the female lobster is sent to the cannery. He has a theory that you could replenish the lobster fishing much more quickly by passing a regulation to the effect that if any female lobsters in the berry stage are caught they should at once be returned to the sea so that the increase would come about in the natural way. Dr. Knight is carrying on a very extensive inquiry in regard to this matter, and among the other subjects he has to consider is the question raised by the hon. member for Gloucester as to whether it