

Hon. Mr. McRAE: That represents largely items under fish culture running from \$95,000 up to \$125,000?

Mr. FOUND: Yes, sir.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: I want to ask Mr. Found with regard to the merits of the different methods of propagation. There was the old system of rearing the fish in troughs and turning them out when the egg sac was absorbed.

Mr. FOUND: Yes.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: The second method, known as the fingerling method, meant keeping the fish some months until they were about the size of one's finger. The third method is the eyed-egg. Have the Americans gone far enough to determine the relative merits of these three methods?

Mr. FOUND: No, sir. We are the only authority that has gone into a full investigation of the matter.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: The eyed-egg method is comparatively new.

Mr. FOUND: We have been planting eyed-eggs for quite a considerable period. Their efficiency, so far as the investigation has gone, is the lowest of the three.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: How long has the Department been engaged in fish culture?

Mr. FOUND: It was started in a small way at Confederation.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Not on the Western Coast.

Mr. FOUND: No, sir.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: About thirty years ago?

Mr. FOUND: I do not remember offhand.

Mr. J. A. RODD (Superintendent of Fish Culture): About thirty years ago.

Hon. Mr. McCORMICK: We have had it down in Nova Scotia longer than that, very soon after Confederation.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: We have not found out much yet, Mr. Found?

Mr. FOUND: Not very much from the commercial stand-point so far as the investigation has gone. The investigators, like all investigators, are very careful about committing themselves as to the final report. The time for their final report is fortunately at hand. So far as sport fish is concerned, the evidence is very strongly in favour of what can be done by artificial fish culture.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: The main protection of course is the closed season, extending the boundaries and that sort of thing.

Mr. FOUND: With respect to commercial fisheries, yes, sir.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Some people out on the Pacific Coast believe there is no other practical method of increasing the salmon except by a closed season and extending the boundaries.

The CHAIRMAN: Reducing the catch.

Mr. FOUND: Reducing the catch and enabling escapement. The agitation—it was nothing short of that a few years ago, as Senator McRae will remember—for the rearing of all young fish to the fingerling stage was very great; but those who are familiar with British Columbia conditions, as compared for instance with Columbia River conditions, will realize what a different proposition we have to handle in British Columbia when you take our ice and snow conditions. Subsequent experience has left grave room for doubt whether results are better than those obtained from the distribution of free feeding fry. The cost would be enormous to carry it out on a big scale in British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, may I read to the committee the passage to which I referred this morning?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.