

Conservation of the fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic is the main concern of the convention. Dr. Walford said "We are trying to develop a scientific basis for the rational utilization of the resources of these waters."

Honourable senators, there is one branch of the fisheries in which I am very much concerned, that is, the lobster fisheries. I started with lobsters myself about 56 years ago, and bought them for a great many years. I view with alarm the fact that lobsters have been gradually decreasing, and I am afraid that if it continues that way the lobster fisheries will, within a few years, become a thing of the past.

I notice that the federal Department of Fisheries is experimenting on new ways of catching lobsters. It has developed a new trap this year. Divers have been sent to the west part of Nova Scotia to study how lobsters are getting into the traps, and they have been tagging lobsters during recent years to find out how fast they were travelling. I commend the department for having done all those things, but I would like to see something done, if at all possible, to multiply or to try to restore the lobsters and to try to increase the catch. Maybe that is hoping for too much, but I see that in Nova Scotia there are two fish hatcheries in which trout are hatched to replenish the lakes and rivers of the province. I really believe it would be feasible to have a lobster hatchery, but I may be absolutely wrong. However, it has been my dream for quite a long time to have a lobster hatchery, and since I believe it would be feasible I would like to see one started. I do not suggest for a moment that a large amount of money should be granted; I believe that \$4,000 or \$5,000 as an experiment would fill the bill, and then if it proved successful the department could enlarge.

Senators who come from the Maritime provinces have seen lobsters with thousands of small spawns attached to them. Fishermen call them eggs, but they are really spawns, about the size of a turnip seed. If those eggs, or spawns, were hatched and allowed to grow, one lobster would supply 25 fishermen for a whole season. At present, in the absence of hatcheries, I am afraid that after the spawns are hatched, schools of fish, such as cod, haddock, and others, eat the small lobsters before they grow to any size. If there were a hatchery, a small building, to be used as an experiment, perhaps five or six feet long, made of glass, with a false bottom, and five or six of these spawn lobsters were put in a vat, the experiment would be well worth while. When fishermen catch them with the eggs or spawns attached they are supposed to put them back in the sea. Well, if five or six of those were put in a vat and installed in

a small building with glass observation windows, then a scientist—a biologist, if you prefer that term—could study the hatching and growth of these lobsters, and I believe this experiment would be most profitable for the fishermen. If the young lobsters were left in that vat until they formed their shell and grew to two and a half inches or three inches long, and then, as is done with trout fingerlings, if they were to put them back into the sea, they could take care of themselves and not be destroyed as they are today.

That honourable senators, was the purpose of the few remarks I wanted to make. I would like to see the department take action along these lines. I believe the fishermen of the Maritime provinces would approve of such a course because, as you know, lobsters are caught only in the eastern part of Canada, in the Maritime provinces and along the coast of Maine.

I have seen quite a number of changes in the industry in my lifetime. Last winter I went down to the wharf and bought twenty lobsters, for which I paid \$12. I told the fishermen that I had seen the day when I could have bought twenty such lobsters for 10 cents—the whole lot, mind you, for 10 cents. That was about seventy years ago, if you please.

Hon. Mr. McKeen: Where did you get the 10 cents?

Hon. Mr. Comeau: In those days lobsters were not being shipped to Boston. You could pick them up along the shore at low tide. I am sure the honourable senator from Queens-Shelburne (Hon. Mr. Smith) can bear me out in this. I remember going with my father at low tide and picking a bagful, maybe a hundred lobsters.

Honourable senators, those are the only remarks that I have to make. I apologize for bringing up a subject which I know cannot be very interesting for honourable senators from British Columbia, because there are no lobsters on the Pacific coast.

Hon. Mr. Reid: We are interested, though.

Hon. Mr. McKeen: We have lots of crabs on the Pacific coast.

Hon. Mr. Comeau: I really hope the department will study the matter. If my suggestion proves to be good I will have performed a service for the fishermen of the Maritime provinces.

I would like to show honourable senators a picture of a lobster that was caught last week by two gentlemen from Lunenburg county. This picture is in the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*. The lobster weighed 30 pounds and was four feet long. That is the kind of fish we catch in the Maritimes.