

serious spirit, and will close my remarks on this point by again urging the minister to restore the administration of the fisheries to the Fisheries Branch.

I think the country may fairly complain of the interest manifested by the Department of Marine and Fisheries in fisheries matters. I do not attach blame to this Government more than to its predecessors, for I think there never has been an aggressive, intelligent, scientific administration of fisheries in this country. The entire staff of the department seems to be given up to administrative affairs, largely clerical work. Very little scientific or research work has been done by anybody in connection with the department. For instance, Professor Prince's duties relate to scientific affairs, yet his time for a great many years has been broken in upon by special matters assigned to him. Being a scientific man his work in the department should be scientific, and the special or extra work given to him of late years should be given to some other person. Little or no study is given by the department to the transportation and marketing of fish. There is little or no circulation of literature by the department for the purpose of instructing the country in the use of fish as a food, or in the methods of using it or marketing it. Everything is left to individual effort, which ordinarily I approve of; but I do think that by more aggressive and modern administration of fishery affairs by the department, our fisheries might be made to contribute a great deal more to the good of the country. In saying this, I repeat, I would not have the minister understand me as attacking the administration of the department by himself or by the present Government, any more than that of previous ministers and of previous Governments. I think there is great opportunity for reform and progress in our fisheries administration.

The hon. member for Shelburne and Queens (Mr. McCurdy) spoke of the importance of increasing our fishery production. Of course, any wealth produced from the sea is as valuable in our accumulation of wealth as that produced by agriculture, lumbering, mining or manufacturing. There is this difference to be noted—and it is to the advantage of our fisheries—that the supply is not diminished, apparently, by the annual catch. Further, no expenditure of capital or labour is needed in preparing and cultivating the source of supply, where-

[Mr. A. K. Maclean.]

as, especially in agriculture, the producers must devote a great deal of money and time to cultivation in order to assure the yield. I cannot but realize, however, that the increase in production from fisheries in Canada depends largely on the possibility of marketing the product. We cannot increase our fisheries production to any great extent if we must depend upon the domestic market alone. I should not look for such an increased consumption of fish products in Canada within the next few years as would increase our fish production to any great extent. We must seek markets in other countries. The hon. member for Shelburne and Queens, in 1911, when the question of markets for fish was a vital and prominent issue, took the position that the Canadian markets were of more importance to the Canadian fishermen than the markets of the United States. I believe that it is hopeless to expect any great increase in our production of fish unless we gain a greater market in the United States. Upon some fish products we have free entry into that market to-day; upon others we encounter a small duty. We have advantages in production over the Americans, and with access to that market we should easily be able to hold our own against the producers in that country. I am inclined, therefore, to favour the suggestion made by the hon. member for Guysborough: to encourage, if we can, the marketing of fish in the United States—I speak largely from the standpoint of the Maritime Provinces—by aiding the establishment of a shipping service between the Maritime Provinces and the United States.

[Mr. E. N. Rhodes at this point for the first time took the Chair as Deputy Speaker.]

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN (continuing): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that it would be quite appropriate if I should extend to you my hearty congratulations on your first appearance in the Chair. Your fellow-members from Nova Scotia are greatly pleased indeed to see this distinction conferred upon you, and I am sure that you will do honour to the position.

I was saying that if a regular steamship service, designed particularly for the carriage of fish between the Maritime Provinces and the United States, could be established by the granting of a small but reasonable subsidy, it would be invaluable to the fishing interests of Nova Scotia. I would say further—I think the hon. member for Guysborough made the same suggestion this