

charge of that hatchery a man who knew nothing about fish culture, who had driven a dray in Selkirk for 20 years. He was taken from that position and put in charge of the fish hatchery, and yet the department expects good results from a hatchery of that kind, managed by a man who knows practically nothing about fish culture. What happened? Two years ago, although the government had spent over \$10,000 in trying to secure spawn in Lake Winnipeg their efforts were abortive simply because the man in charge did not know his business, and did not understand the taking of spawn. The hatcheries at Selkirk and at Lake Winnipeg were closed. A consignment of spawn was sent from Ontario to keep the hatchery going, but when it reached Selkirk, through the ignorance of the man in charge, the spawn was allowed to spoil and the hatchery was again closed. Even when it is successful as it was this year, the management is imperfect. At Selkirk, when the young fry are ready and must go into the water, the water is unfit for them.

The Red river is clear of ice three weeks before Lake Winnipeg; the temperature of the river rises rapidly and the fry have to be deposited, and when they are discharged the water of Red river is extremely muddy. It is safe to say that not ten per cent of the fish from the hatchery ever live to reach Lake Winnipeg. Everybody knows this, the department knows it. To-night from my place in this House I put in a plea that the hatchery be removed to where it will do some good. I suggest that it be placed on Big island or some other point on the south end of Lake Winnipeg, and if that be done it will to some extent help to remedy the great wrong perpetrated, and to replenish the waters in the south end of the lake. There is no question that if there was a hatchery placed on Big island or somewhere on the south end of the lake that within the next four or five years we would have abundance of fish there, for the settlers at least. Two or three years ago we spent \$24,000 in building a hatchery at Beirns river and although Mr. Jackson, the late member for the county promised the settlers at the south end that the hatchery would be built on Big island, the influence of the great fish companies was too strong and they had it located on the north end of the lake so as to help to produce fish to keep that American combine supplied. What I set out to say was that that hatchery lay idle all last year, because, through the bungling of the men employed to look after this delicate business of fish culture, no spawn was secured. Not one of these men in charge of the hatcheries has had any experience. The inspector of hatcheries at Selkirk is a very fine fellow himself, but he is a lumberman who attends to his lumber business in Selkirk, and he knows no

more about fish culture than I do about making a watch. That is the kind of men that is placed in charge of the fish culture of the province of Manitoba, and is it any wonder we have had such results? The man in charge of the hatchery at Beren's river was a friend of the late member, Mr. Jackson, and he was taken off the farm to be put in charge there. If we are to succeed in replenishing that lake with fish, if we are to get any value for the thousands of dollars we have spent, it is absolutely necessary that competent men should be put in charge. I trust that the report of the commission will be a comprehensive one, and that it will enable the minister to judge of these matters himself and not be dependent upon his officials. Now, Sir, I have endeavoured to place this matter as fairly as possible before the House. There is no politics in it or there ought to be none, but unfortunately at times politics do get mixed up in it and politics have a good deal to do with the destruction of our lakes. I have tried to place the matter fairly before the minister in the hope that I may induce him to grapple with the question and to remedy the evils that exist. Our Manitoba fisheries are a great natural resource of the province and they ought to be well guarded. There are a large number of citizens in my own constituency who depend largely for a livelihood on the pursuit of this industry, and the fall and winter fishing on the lake is quite an important enterprise. There is no danger to the fisheries from winter fishing because every time the net is put into the water it is taken out again with the fish that are in it, but in the case of the summer fishing miles and miles of these nets are often torn away and they go sailing through the lake killing and destroying the fish as they pass along and polluting the waters. I ask the minister to see that the commission which investigates this question will not be content with taking the mere statements of certain people, but that they will have power to subpoena witnesses and cross-examine them so that a true knowledge of the conditions on Lake Winnipeg may be obtained and an adequate remedy applied.

Now, in conclusion, allow me to again press upon the minister the absolute necessity of erecting at once an up-to-date hatchery on Big island. This end of the lake has been thoroughly depleted of whitefish for commercial purposes, and as it is the portion of the lake where the large Icelandic settlement reside, it ought to be replenished at the earliest possible date. That the lake has been depleted is evidenced from the fact that the companies are to-day paying 3½ cents per pound for whitefish that they used to pay about one-quarter of one cent per pound for. A great wrong has been done to our settlers and to our residents, not only of Manitoba and of all the Eastern provinces, where our