

Supply—Fisheries

barrels. The experiment to which the hon. member refers is going along slowly. It takes considerable time and expense to do anything on that foreshore owing to the killing of the oysters by ice in the winter.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): Do I understand from the parliamentary assistant that there is more than a possibility of successful cultivation of oysters in that area?

Mr. MacNaught: I believe that that statement is approximately correct. I would point out to the hon. member that this is an expensive type of propagation. We have to build dikes to keep the water in and of course the problem of silting must be contended with. We feel that there are possibilities there, but the great difficulty is the lack of interest on the part of the people in that area.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): The lack of interest to which the parliamentary assistant refers is due largely to the lack of success on the part of the department. The department undertook a certain responsibility in connection with the culture of oysters and they have not made a success of their venture. Therefore the people in the area are not interested. Do the experiments carried on indicate that there is a possibility of successful oyster culture in that area?

Mr. MacNaught: The only answer I can give my hon. friend is to read the last paragraph of a report which was prepared by one of our officials, and which is as follows:

The more pressing problem is that of securing acceptance of what is now known. While it is true that new ideas are resisted by these farmer-fisher-folk, it is probably also true that the department has not given sufficiently wide publicity to its findings on this coast. In Prince Edward Island much the same problem was overcome by distribution of oyster farming circulars and by the holding of "field days" at which the latest culture methods were demonstrated. This latter method was the more effective. The time is probably overdue when the department should attempt something similar in this part of Nova Scotia.

Mr. McLure: What success has the department had in the culture of quahogs, or hard shell or cherrystone clams? There is a big demand for this product. Does it really take seven or eight years for them to reach the point where they are saleable?

Mr. Mayhew: I know Dr. Pritchard and Dr. Needler have been interested in this matter. I shall try to get more information for the hon. member.

Items agreed to.

153. Consumer branch, \$55,490.

Mr. Riley: Item 153 has to do with the consumer branch of the Department of Fisheries. First of all I should like to express

[Mr. MacNaught.]

my congratulations to the minister on the very fine work that is being done all over the country by this branch in promoting the consumption of fish—

An hon. Member: What work?

Mr. Riley:—the different methods by which fish can be cooked and served, and generally by encouraging the population of our country to consume this very important natural product which abounds in our waters both inland and in the seas surrounding the country. I should like, however—and I believe I am in order when I say this—to deplore the absence of the different varieties of Atlantic fish from the parliamentary restaurant. I believe this is one place where the consumer branch of the Department of Fisheries might encourage the consumption of fish generally throughout the country by endeavouring to have the different varieties of salt water fish introduced to members of the House of Commons through their parliamentary restaurant.

In the past two years since I have been here I have occasionally had the privilege of eating some Gaspé salmon, but the main fare served to members in the parliamentary restaurant has been lake trout, Winnipeg goldeye—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I think the hon. member should make his representations to the parliamentary restaurant committee. There is a committee on the parliamentary restaurant, and I think he should address his representations to the members of that committee.

Mr. Riley: May I not direct my representations to the consumer branch of the Department of Fisheries through the minister?

Mr. McLure: Yes, go ahead.

The Deputy Chairman: It is a matter for the hon. member to decide. We are now discussing an item which is entitled "consumer branch" of the Department of Fisheries. The hon. member has made his point in his remarks, and I am sure the minister will do whatever he can to convey to the authorities in charge of the parliamentary restaurant the message of the hon. member for Saint John-Albert. Beyond that point I think he should address his remarks to the committee on the parliamentary restaurant.

Mr. Riley: I take it that when the item in the estimates affecting the consumer branch of the Department of Fisheries is being discussed it is an opportune time to bring out the point that I was endeavouring