

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Dorchester is a talented young man who will probably be called upon to play a commanding part. If he wishes to render a real service to his province, he should assume the leadership of a movement to secure for the mother province of the dominion the help farmers require, for they are the backbone of this country. To repeat the words spoken by one of his predecessors as representative of the Quebec district, I believe: The last citizen to stand under the British flag in Canada will be a French-Canadian. I believe those words are true. The inhabitants of Quebec were the first Canadians, they have remained Canadians and they will so remain for ever. We have a right to expect from the federal government the treatment we are entitled to receive. I trust the Conservative representation from Quebec will bring its influence to bear while it is in a position to do so and holds the balance of power. The present administration would not exist without the Quebec representation. Without the 25 ridings which the Liberals lost in Quebec, the Government would not have attained power. I understand the minister is only directing the Fisheries department provisionally. The member for Dorchester will probably be entrusted with the administration of that department at no distant date. I would ask the members supporting the government to improve their tenure of office by coming to the assistance of the people of Quebec who are greatly in need of it from every standpoint. I will not insist further.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to make these observations. I would ask my colleagues who sit to the right to put politics aside, to devote their attention to the real interests of the fishermen, the farmers of the province of Quebec, also to the poor workingmen of the city of Montreal who to-day are out of work and in a most distressing situation, and their number runs into thousands. The administration has a splendid opportunity to come to their help. Let us forget the past, let us face the present and the future.

Mr. RALSTON: I should like to say just a word in reply to the remarks of my hon. friend from Cumberland. I think he will search in vain to find anything I said derogatory to Malagash salt. What I did say was that I had done my very best to assist Mr. Chambers and those connected with him in finding a market for that product among the fishermen of Nova Scotia and that at least some of the men found difficulty in using it.

[Mr. Marcell]

The objection which I was taking to the sales tax on salt was the objection he has taken, namely that a blow should not be struck at a Canadian industry. The industry to which I am referring is the fishing industry of Nova Scotia, which is to use his own words, 100 per cent Canadian, and which is being struck a blow by this six per cent sales tax on a raw material used in connection with that industry, plus three per cent excise tax. I say the fishermen of Nova Scotia do not deserve that, and in that sense I object to the taxation which is being imposed by this government.

There is one other matter. The minister suggests that the reason the excise tax is not being made applicable to Newfoundland is because of the fear of reprisals. I thought that was the one thing about which this government cared nothing at all. They were going to make a Canadian tariff and enact Canadian laws without regard to what anyone else did. Now it seems they are changing their attitude. I only want to say that I do not want to see the fishing industry of Nova Scotia sacrificed in order to avoid reprisals. I suggested to my hon. friend that the three per cent tax was imposed as an excise tax and not a duty, and was made applicable to Great Britain and the dominions overseas, so it seems to me that it could hardly be regarded as a hostile act if it were made applicable to the dominion of Newfoundland as well.

My hon. friend from Digby-Annapolis paid a high tribute to the record of this government in connection with fisheries. I would not expect my hon. friend to do anything else; he is a loyal supporter of this government through evil times and good, and even though the government did not accept his recommendation and mine with regard to the lobster season—

Mr. SHORT: They did accept my recommendation in part.

Mr. RALSTON: Even though they did not accept his recommendation and mine with regard not to the extension but the restoration of the lobster season, I would not expect my hon. friend to complain. I want to tell him that when the time comes I am quite prepared to discuss with him or with anyone else the record of this government, as compared with that of the previous government, with regard to fisheries. I think he will find that the only two things that have been done by this government—he may know of something more, though I doubt it—in connection with fisheries were the appointment of the Cockfield Brown commission, which made the report to which I