

province of Manitoba of 84,000,000 lbs., the balance being taken out of Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis. In addition to that there were 5,320,000 lbs. of sturgeon. This valuable fish, I may say, is almost extinct in Lake Winnipeg. The lake has almost been depleted and the reason for that is that it takes a very long time for sturgeon to mature. It takes about twelve or thirteen years for a sturgeon to reach the weight of from 10 to 15 lbs. We have had sturgeon taken out of Lake Winnipeg that weighed 125 lbs.

Mr. HENDERSON. How old are they?

Mr. BRADBURY. Some of them are seventy years of age.

Mr. HENDERSON. That is a fishy story.

Mr. BRADBURY. While these figures show the amount of fish put up by the large American fish combines, they do not begin to account for the amount of fish killed by the methods employed by the American fish interests and by other commercial companies. It is well known that the method of fishing in Lake Winnipeg is by the gill net. We have had as much as sixty miles of gill net stretched in Lake Winnipeg at one time by these commercial companies. During the month of September we have as a rule, very stormy weather. There are days and days when the fishermen cannot visit the nets. The consequence is that the nets are killing fish all the time. Some of these nets are swept away from their moorings and lost, and, going floating through the lake, the most deadly engine one could imagine, killing fish and polluting the water as they pass through the waters until they are thrown up on some beach where hundreds of tons of fish lie rotting, and pollute the water. This, Sir, is one of the greatest factors, and, I may say, it is the greatest factor in the depletion and destruction of our once great whitefish industry in Lake Winnipeg. Unfortunately for our fisheries and for our settlers along Lake Winnipeg, almost immediately after Mr. Wilmot had made his report and had pointed out the danger to the Lake Winnipeg fishing industry from the methods practised by the large combines, he retired from office being then an old man and a man of very great experience. Mr. Wilmot had been in the employ of the government for many years and he had been under, I believe, the best deputy that the Department of Marine and Fisheries ever had. I am speaking of the late William Smith. He, Wilmot, understood what these interests had done along the shores of the great lakes in Ontario, he knew what their methods had resulted in and he knew that they would result in similar destruction in Lake Winni-

peg. He pointed out in his report, in a very specific and clear manner, what these companies were going to do in Lake Winnipeg if not restricted, and it is remarkable that the department did not act more vigorously upon that report. He retired as I have said just after making this report, and the gentleman who was appointed to fill his position was the present commissioner, Professor Prince, a man who came to this country from the old land entirely ignorant of the conditions that prevailed on Lake Winnipeg, entirely ignorant of the methods practised by the American fish interests and entirely ignorant of the results of those methods on the Ontario lakes. Consequently, when he came to Manitoba he was handicapped in such a way as to make it almost impossible for him to realize that there was any great danger of the depletion of Lake Winnipeg by the methods practised by the commercial interests. No doubt this idea was created and supported strongly by the then resident inspector of fisheries. I speak of the late Latouche Tupper. I know it is an old maxim, which I intend largely to follow to-night, to always speak well of the dead, but to do justice to this subject I must tell the House the truth regarding what I believe to be the cause of the depletion of that great lake. Mr. Tupper was inspector, and if he had been a paid official of that great American combine he could not have done more to assist in the destruction of the fishery of Lake Winnipeg than he did. Every move that was made to check the killing of fish by the American fish interests was countered by this inspector. He had the ear of his minister at Ottawa on account of his official position and he apparently had the ear of the officers in the department and every move that was made to check this American fish interest was countered by this man and by the influences that surrounded him.

I regret, Mr. Speaker, to have to say that representation after representation was made to the Department of Marine and Fisheries pointing out the destruction that was going on, but it seemed impossible to reach the ear or obtain the sympathy of the department. Settlers along that lake who had been induced to settle there largely on account of the great fishing industry that was promised had petitioned the government time after time praying for protection, but it seemed impossible to get the department to take any action. That cannot be very much wondered at perhaps when we realize that for years, on both sides of the Speaker, sat gentlemen who were stockholders and supporters of the American fish interests. We had up to a very few years ago members on both sides of this House who were stockholders or agents of the American fish interests. Consequently, you can well