

Excellent Work of Dominion Officers.

The real benefit resulting from the Federal administration of the fisheries cannot be questioned by anyone qualified to form a judgement on this matter. Many of our valuable fisheries would have been a thing of the past but for the work of the Department at Ottawa and its staff of officers, over 2,000 in number. From my experience as an official, and as a scientific expert in Scotland, England, and Ireland, I can testify to the great work done by the Fisheries Service of this country without much show or ostentation but quietly and effectively all the same; and you will be interested to learn that the Dominion Government is about to reinstate a large staff of officers in the Eastern Provinces, a staff which was abolished some years ago when the Fisheries judgment in London determined that the fisheries were the property of the Provinces.

Great Work of the Fisheries Department at Ottawa.

The enforcement of the licence system, the prevention of over-fishing, the limitation of nets and gear, the observance of close seasons during spawning time, the prevention of pollutions, and the abolition of injurious dams and obstructions, the provision for gates on irrigation canals, &c., the operation of hatcheries, and the extensive stocking of waters year by year, with young fish, indeed, the carrying out of an extensive and wide system of administration and the enforcement of an elaborate code of fishery laws, is a task which the Fisheries Department of Ottawa has attempted, and the way in which it has accomplished at any rate a great part of its work entitles it to public sympathy, support, and approval. The Cabinet Minister at the head of the Department, has always had a difficult and heavy task, and is entitled to all the support and credit that thoughtful and intelligent men can give to a conscientious performance of duty. Fishery Officers have a difficult, and even risky task to perform, and they are doing excellent work. The Department is not neglecting its duty, though Parliament has been less generous in voting funds for fisheries work than for many other public services. It will do its work better if all over the country more interest is shown by the people and more support given in the shape of public opinion, that public opinion which, twenty-five years ago, might have saved the noble herds of buffalo on your western prairies.

International Fisheries Agreement.

International fishery difficulties need not worry us, gentlemen. The gravest problems affecting our Atlantic fisheries were settled at The Hague recently, while, under the Fisheries Treaty signed by King Edward and President Roosevelt on April 11th, 1908, an International Commission was authorised, on which, as I have said, I have the