

their share and thus reduce the amount that ought to go through the proper channel. I hope that during recess a vigilant enquiry will be made into this and it will be found that what I have said will be substantiated. Many of them have much more work to do to make both ends meet than is generally supposed.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) I concur, to a large extent, with the remarks of the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) so far as the past is concerned, but I know that the department has taken steps to overcome that difficulty, and the people who are foolish enough to make false statements with respect to their bounty are beginning to find that they will be prevented from getting bounties in the future. That fact alone is having a very good effect. I think that the supervision that is now being made of the bounty claims, and the strict manner in which the department has been examining the claims of the people whom they have reason to suspect, will have such an effect in the future there will be much less complaint. I agree with the hon. gentleman that it is necessary to keep a strict supervision over all parties having claims of that kind, because sometimes they are put in, I believe, in the names of boys and others who are under age. However, that thing is likely to cure itself. So strict are they in our part of the country that I am afraid, occasionally, people who have really good claims are, perhaps, prevented from getting their just dues on account of the information laid before the department not being always correct. However, the intention of the department is good, and I have no doubt that in the future there will be less irregularity than there has been in the past.

Mr. FRASER. I think the department would do well to settle with others than their own political friends. These bounties are for all the fishermen, irrespective of their party proclivities. I am sure there are a good many in all the counties who are anxious to see that the bounty reached the hands of those who were entitled to it. For myself, I would be glad to give the fullest information to the Government to prevent frauds and to assist in the proper distribution of the bounties, and I am sure that there is no member from the lower provinces, whatever may be his political views, who has any other desire than to see this fund equitably and honestly distributed.

Mr. FOSTER. No doubt this fund is for the encouragement of the honest fishermen, and every dollar of it that is bestowed wrongfully is taken out of the pockets of the honest fishermen. But when you take into consideration the large number of claims, I think but a very small proportion of them are fraudulent. There are some fraudulent claims, no doubt. The schedule of the steps necessary to get a bounty is published; they know well what they have to do to get their claims proved, and the gauntlet that has to be run at the present time is a very severe one. Of course, it is possible, by the ingenuity of the party himself, aided by the connivance of those before whom he has to go for certificates, to impose upon the department. I know that the Minister takes great care to prevent any unworthy man from receiving a bounty; and I think the members from the Maritime Provinces would do a great service to the department if they would, when any such informa-

tion comes to them, as sometimes it will, inform the department of it. It is only right to the fishermen and right to the department, in order that the honest man may be protected and the dishonest man detected. No doubt the utility and permanency of the system depends on its honest administration.

Mr. FRASER. I did not mean to say anything against the department as being a party to dishonesty, but I do know that some of the petty officers in the various counties are not what they ought to be. I would suggest as a method of preventing fraud, that a list of all fishermen entitled to receive bounties be sent to the collector of customs to be posted up, so that every fisherman coming in can see the names who are on the list. That is never done. You will find in that way the fishermen themselves will see that no fraudulent claims will succeed, and they will look after it much better than the officials.

Mr. FOSTER. It would cost something to post up forty or fifty thousand names.

Mr. FRASER. In each county there may be some little outlay, but I fancy the Government will save a great deal more by publishing these lists in the various counties than they are losing now.

Mr. KAULBACH. I cannot agree with the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) in suggesting that a list be placed in the possession of the customs officers. That would be as much as to say that the overseer of the fisheries is inclined to do what is dishonourable.

An hon. MEMBER. Oh, no.

Mr. KAULBACH. It would be hardly fair on the part of the Government towards the overseer. I think the overseers of fisheries are, as a class, above any imputations of that kind. This bounty has been given by the Government for the encouragement of shipbuilding, as well as the encouragement of fishing, and I, as representing a county largely engaged in both industries, am anxious to see that the bounty reaches those for whom it is intended. There may be some isolated cases where parties are receiving the bounty improperly. I do not know that at present there is any rule whereby parties who are not Canadians and going into the deep-sea fisheries would be deprived of the privilege of receiving a bounty. I think the rule has been that they receive it as well as their neighbours. If that is not the case, perhaps it would be as well for the department to consider it carefully and ascertain whether they were entitled to it or not. I think myself they would be entitled to it. If they are not Canadian-born subjects, they would be parties who came into the country and desired to remain and continue as citizens, and it would be pretty hard were they to be deprived of the privilege of receiving the bounty with their neighbours. As regards bounties improperly paid, I will only speak so far as my own county is concerned, and say that the overseers employed are very honourable men and so careful that I do not think a solitary instance can be found of wilful fraud or careless payments to claimants. I think bounties are given to boys of a certain age who are entitled to receive them. Boys have received bounties, but only those who were able to do a certain portion of work in assisting their parents and those in charge