

cerned, it is the bounden duty of the Government to cancel his license at once. I do not think it is in the interests of the fishing industry in this country that one man should have licenses over such an enormous territory as this man has. This is a matter which the department should investigate most thoroughly; and if I am here another session, I shall deem it my duty to ask the department to lay on the Table such papers as they may have respecting the matter to which I have referred. There are one or two more questions I would like to bring before the attention of the hon. Minister. As he knows, there is a fish hatchery in Sandwich, and another in Newcastle, and there is also one in the city of Ottawa; and I see by the report of Mr. Wilmot that he recommends the establishment of one upon the Georgian Bay. I would remind the hon. Minister that Lake Huron is one of the largest lakes in the Dominion, that it is one of the waters from which the largest quantity of fish is obtained; and I believe it would be in the interests of the fisheries, if upon some point of Lake Huron a fish hatchery were established. In order to plant the pickerel in Lake Huron, the man in charge of the fish hatchery at Sandwich has to go up to Lake Huron, he is not always there at the time when he is able to get the spawn. It is a matter of very great importance to my mind that we should have a hatchery, not only upon Lake Huron, but also upon Lake Superior, and I would urge upon the Government the necessity of doing this, if it can be done at all. There can be no doubt but that these hatcheries have had a wonderful effect on the fisheries in this country. The fishermen report, not only on Lake Erie but on Lake Huron, that the result of this work is already apparent, and they strongly feel that it should be continued and extended as far as possible. I would advise the Government that, in the spring, before the close season has expired, some fishermen should be permitted to fish in Canada, so that the ova could be obtained. I believe it was found this year when the fishing commenced that the male fish had disappeared to a great extent while there were any quantity of female fish, and thus it was impossible to get the male fish to impregnate the ova, and the result of that is no doubt a great loss to our own fishery. If those gentlemen had gone through there a week before, a great number both of male and female fish could have been obtained, but strange to say the males had disappeared, leaving the females. What the fishermen ask is that the gill-nets should be abolished entirely and that the whole question of pound-net fishing should be thoroughly investigated and reported on; and I would suggest that Mr. Wilmot, or some other man thoroughly acquainted with fishing in the inland waters, should be empowered to visit the fishing ports of the Province of Ontario and take all the evidence on that subject he could, and see how far the complaints which are made are well founded. We ask that the number of pound net licenses shall be greatly reduced, and that the pound-net license for Lake St. Clair shall be entirely abolished, and that the mesh of the pound-nets shall be made larger than it is. The fact is that, with the mesh which is now used, the Detroit fishermen catch a small whitefish which is not fit for the market, take it to Detroit and put it on the market as Detroit whitefish, when really it should

not be on the market at all. We ask that the violation of the law as to the size of nets and as to the close season shall be punished by cancellation of the license, and the destruction of the fishing plant, and also that licenses shall be granted to Canadians only on proof that they can own the necessary appliances, and that if any licenses so granted are held in trust for an American company they shall be cancelled. We also ask that the fishery inspector shall have the power to investigate all cases of this kind. I trust that, before the House meets next year, the Minister will see his way to appoint a commissioner to investigate all the complaints of the fishermen, and then the Government and the House will be in a better condition to deal with the question.

Mr. O'BRIEN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Lister) has given strong evidence in support of what I have often urged upon the Government that there should be a closer inspection of the fisheries on the Georgian Bay generally, though, of course, that would entail a greater expenditure than is made at the present time. I acknowledge that it is a very difficult question. I do not understand the proposal of the hon. gentleman that the gill net should be abolished in favour of the pound-net, for our experience is that the pound-net has always been regarded as the most destructive of all. I hope the Minister will deny the statement made in reference to Mr. Gauthier, because, if that person has any license covering any part of the coast of the Georgian Bay, it is something new to me. As I understand, the licenses in the Georgian Bay are given to boats only. If any special privilege has been given to this person, it should at once be remedied. There is another evil to which I may refer, and that, perhaps, is as extensive as the one referred to by the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister). It is that many of these fish companies buy the fish direct from the fishermen and, as they are able to take them into the United States free of duty, they divide the amount of duty with the fishermen and thus induce the fishermen to sell them their fish.

Mr. LISTER. They cannot do that, because it is only the owner of the fishing plant who is enabled to get the fish into the United States free of duty.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I have understood that they divide the amount of duty with the fishermen, which gives our fishermen a bonus and enables these men to get their fish into the United States free of duty. The result is the same. The fish are sent to the other side, and the supply from our own waters is lost to us. What is really needed is a more careful and closer inspection, and that, of course, means a larger expenditure of money. I think the Government are entitled to some credit for having made some progress in this direction, but I think they hardly appreciate the value of the fisheries on Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay, and that, while a great deal has been done for the sea coast fisheries, comparatively little has been done for the fisheries in our inland waters, and consequently a great loss has taken place which it will be hard to repair. I think some plan should be adopted by which the present system under which our whole trade is passing away to foreign waters should be changed and the evil should be obviated. I fancy it might be done by revising the system of