

I deemed of great importance. The reason why we are here is this: The Dominion Government appointed a special commission, consisting of myself and my colleagues, Mr. Harris, of Toronto, and Mr. Marks, of Port Arthur, to investigate matters in the Province of Ontario with a view of ascertaining what could be done to improve the fisheries and if possible to do away with the cause of the complaints and clamors that now exist among the fishermen in their work. They were all complaining of the scarcity of fish. They were all complaining of improper close seasons. And that special commission has been engaged during the last few weeks in taking evidence around Lakes Erie, Huron, the Georgian Bay, and a portion of Lake Ontario. While away from home I received your kind invitation to attend the meeting, but could not accept it at the time, because our duties did not extend sufficiently far to enable us to attend meetings of this kind. I therefore telegraphed to our Minister of Marine and Fisheries asking whether we would be permitted to come here and listen to what might be said, with a view of being benefited by any expressions that come forth here. His consent was given; he telegraphed, "By all means attend the meeting," and hence we are here. When you get down to the question of fisheries I will be glad to discuss that, but it would be out of place to say any more.

Chairman Whitaker: I will say to the representatives from the Dominion Government that we are exceedingly glad to have them here, and we hope they will participate in every subject that may come up for discussion. This child, the International Fisheries Conference, was baptised without my consent. I did not know what its name was until long after the act was performed. It makes but very little difference, however, what its name may be, the proceedings that have been had at these meetings have been in the nature of a conference of states and provinces, or whatever you may be pleased to call them, of different nations,

and it has all been tending toward the general good of all in that line. We ask every person who is interested in these questions to be present with us at our meetings and express their sentiments freely. It binds no one, but if by these conferences good can be brought forth, the states and the provinces are so much benefited.

I am aware of the fact that the State of New York has one of the most efficient fish and game warden systems of any of the states. We would be very glad to hear from any of the members of the New York commission upon that matter. The question before us is: The necessity for an efficient enforcement of laws by a paid Fish and Game Department. 1. Should the department be under the Fish Commission? 2. The number of deputy wardens. 3. Compensation of Chief Warden and deputies. 4. Terms of office.

I will call upon Mr. Huntington to explain the working of the New York law.

Mr. Huntington: To this question that you propose to discuss: Should the department be under the Fish Commission? I should unhesitatingly say, Yes. Our Chairman here has the law of the State of New York with him, and it has been but slightly changed in relation to the fish and game protectors from the law that has existed for some few years, but under the provisions of the Codification Bill we revised our entire game laws of the State of New York at the last session of the legislature, and enlarged the powers of the commissioners. Under that law, which has been in existence since May last, the old system was improved wherever it was found to be defective, and the new system has been found to be very effective.

I would briefly state the workings of our law thus: The foundation of it is this: The appointment of the fish and game protectors, as they are termed, is left with the commissioners of fisheries. Within our state there are twenty wardens, and I would state that their terms of office are subject to the control of the