

Fisheries—Salaries, \$113,331; contingencies, \$20,000.

Mr. NEILL: This is the item dealing with civil government at Ottawa. I have prepared elaborate data that I proposed to unload, but I am going to take mercy on my weary fellow members and cut it down very substantially.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MICHAUD: Hand it over.

Mr. NEILL: I will put it into three minutes if I can. First, I just wanted to correct a misstatement that was made when I was speaking on this matter on March 3. I was reported somewhat generally in the press as having said that in my opinion the civil servants of Canada were asleep. That was a mistake. What I said was, certain sections, and that I am prepared to stand up to. To say it applied to them all would be doing a gross injustice to the civil service, a large majority of whom are very faithful, conscientious people, and some of them entirely devoted to their work. I then intended to deal with, though now I am only going to summarize it, some of the statements the deputy minister put into the mouth of his minister in connection with the figures, with which he dealt with the utmost abandon. Discrepancies of twenty-five per cent and in some cases seventy per cent I can readily prove. I proposed to show also the type of figures that his chief supervisor in Vancouver sent out, but I showed it to the minister, so I will not repeat it. It was not a case of typographical error; it was a straight case of faking figures, they faked figures at the bottom in order to make them agree. That was at the least gross carelessness. If the minister wants details I have them under my hand. Page 56.

Mr. MICHAUD: Intentional?

Mr. NEILL: Absolutely. If it is not intentional the man is a fool. It is not a typographical error. I will show it to the minister if he wishes.

Mr. MICHAUD: I have seen it.

Mr. NEILL: The reason I say it is intentional is this. They add up seven columns and they do not add them up correctly, but to make them agree with the other two totals they put in a false statement. You have only to look at the thing, on page 55. If you take the number of cases inspected of sockeye, 270,000, and reject 21,000, you surely do not have 349,000 left, do you? It does not need a statistician or a purchasing

[Mr. Neill.]

agent to tell you that. But they make the totals correct. Then I show that the deputy minister's own bulletin, the bulletin for May, says that the British Columbia product increased \$550,000 last year, but if you compare it with his own report on page 6 you will find the increase is only \$452,000, a trifling difference of \$98,000. But here are the only points I want to make. I am taking their own figures. They show that the marketed value for 1935 went up \$550,000 while the landed value to the fishermen, according to the January bulletin, went down \$178,150, showing that the fishermen got less for their product that year while the cannery men got a large increase. That goes to support my contention, and that is the trend of my remarks, that the policies of the departmental officials and their sympathies in British Columbia lie wholly with the big cannery interests, as the men who are prominent in the business world, in the financial world, in the social world, and perchance in the political world also. Their sympathies go there; they are not with the working fishermen.

Mr. MICHAUD: The sympathy of the minister goes with the working fishermen.

Mr. NEILL: I thank the minister for his kind words, and I shall look forward with hopeful anticipation to his making good on that.

I see in the item there is a purchasing agent in the office at Ottawa. What do we want a purchasing agent for? In the same building there is a purchasing agent for the Marine department; on the same floor or the next one there is a purchasing agent for the Public Works department. There is also a government contract supervising committee that takes charge of the salvaged stuff that has to be disposed of. What does that department need a purchasing agent for? Will the minister tell us why? It will tax his ingenuity, I think.

Mr. MICHAUD: It is to purchase all that the department needs. Most, though not all, the purchases for the eastern section of the fisheries department are made in Ottawa through tender from the main office. It is only in British Columbia that we have a special purchasing agent, a man in Vancouver who looks after the purchases in British Columbia, but all the purchases in the eastern section are made in the head office at Ottawa through that gentleman.

Mr. NEILL: In that case, what does he buy?

Mr. MICHAUD: All kinds of things.