

Trawler Licences

licensed for the present fiscal year. On the other hand, the Halifax board of trade and the mayor of Halifax have urged very strongly the renewal of all the existing licences. Applications for renewal of the five licences held by the Maritime-National company have been made, and the Leonard Fisheries has intimated that it intends to apply for a renewal of its licence.

At this point it may be interesting to note that the decline in the trawler catch in recent years has kept pace with the decline in the hook and line catch. In Nova Scotia alone the hook and line catch of the kinds of fish landed by trawlers was 150,200,977 pounds. The trawler catch that year was 31,365,423 pounds. Last year the Nova Scotia catch of these fish by the hook and line fishermen was 108,645,871 pounds, while the catch by the steam trawlers was 22,956,729 pounds, or a decrease of practically 27 per cent in each case.

It is also contended that the trawler operators are amongst the largest purchasers of fish from the hook and line fishermen, and the former maintain that it is only possible for them to continue to make such large purchases from the hook and line fishermen because of having the trawlers so that they can keep continuously in the market. It is also contended that the main landings by the trawlers are during the six winter months when hook and line fishing is reduced to a minimum, and during a portion of which no licence fee was charged on the trawler landings under the previous regulations.

It also may be of value to note that all other countries are allowing trawlers to operate. Out of European ports about 5,000 of these vessels are operating yearly. Out of United States ports there are usually over 300. These latter vessels as well as a large number from France and sometimes from other European countries, fish on the Banks adjacent to our coasts, so that even if our trawlers were withdrawn it would decrease the amount of trawling on these Banks by a very small proportion only.

After consideration of all the facts it is thought that if the Maritime-National had three trawlers instead of five operating they could reasonably assure the steadiness of supply as well as the proportion of haddock needed. Hence it has been decided that for the present year that company will be allowed three trawlers and the Leonard Fisheries one, as before. There are no other applicants. This will involve a reduction in number of 33½ per cent. This reduction will be put

[Mr. Duranleau.]

into effect from the first of May, thus giving one month to the company to enable it to fill certain contracts into which it has entered.

VISIT OF JAPANESE WARSHIP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): According to press dispatches a Japanese warship is to visit Vancouver harbour to-morrow. In view of the trouble in the orient and the withdrawal of Japan from the League of Nations, may I ask what the attitude of the government will be?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I was not aware that the question was to be asked, and I have nothing to say because I have received no correspondence with respect to the matter. If the ship comes into the harbour she is entitled to anchor, and I assume she will.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Is the government extending entertainment to this visiting warship?

Mr. BENNETT: I doubt not that the citizens of Vancouver will extend to them the hospitality for which that city is proverbial.

PENITENTIARY ACT AMENDMENT

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS BY
GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

The house resumed from Monday, April 3, consideration in committee of Bill No. 59, to amend the Penitentiary Act—Mr. Guthrie—Mr. Gagnon in the chair.

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): Since the committee had this bill under consideration yesterday I have talked it over with the Deputy Minister of Justice in regard to one of the amendments which he made and in regard to which he thinks the language might be very much improved. I refer to subsection 3 of section 3. The following words were added as subsection 3:

All other officers, clerks and employees of the penitentiary branch of the Department of Justice shall be appointed and paid under the provisions of the Civil Service Act.

It has been pointed out that the words "shall be appointed and paid" are not proper. There are more provisions in the Civil Service Act than appointment and pay. The amendment I have to propose is the insertion of a new clause in these words:

All other officers, clerks and employees of the penitentiary branch of the Department of Justice shall continue to be subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Act.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gagnon): Shall the amendment passed last night be rescinded,