

*Biological Board Act*

The CHAIRMAN: This section reads as follows:

Section 4 of the Biological Board Act, chapter 18 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, is repealed, and the following is substituted therefor:—

"4. The board shall consist of seven members appointed by the minister, and one additional member appointed by such universities, to be named by the minister, as may engage in the work of biological research."

Mr. STEVENS: What I am going to speak of now does not apply directly to this clause, but the minister will, I am sure, be glad to answer the question. About a year ago I spoke on the question of carrying on the work of the biological research board. There was passed by a meeting, I think in Vancouver, of representative organizations interested in the fish business, a resolution reading as follows:

Whereas the scientific research conducted by the biological board in British Columbia is considered to be of vital importance to the fishing industry, and also of great value in the formulation of the regulations of the department, it is with much concern and apprehension that this meeting learns of the reduction of \$27,000 in the appropriation for the current year, and it is the unanimous request of this meeting, representative of all phases of the industry, that the amount deducted be made available for the carrying out of the valuable and important projects as planned, during the current season.

I understand there has been a reduction in the estimates of the money available for this very important research work. May I ask the minister whether that situation is to be corrected this session so that the projects planned during the past year or two by this board as a result of its scientific research, may be carried out.

Mr. CARDIN: The officers of the department inform me that this is not going to mean any important curtailment in the work of the biological board.

Mr. STEVENS: The minister has not perhaps quite caught my point. I said that it did not apply exactly to this clause. It deals with the reduction in the main estimates. Is there, as a result of that reduction, to be a curtailment of the development?

Mr. CARDIN: Certainly not.

Mr. SHORT: In the appointments to these two positions will every care be taken to see that men possessing a thorough knowledge of the fishing industry will be chosen and that men will not be appointed because of their political affiliations?

[Mr. Stevens.]

Mr. CARDIN: My hon. friend may be assured as to that because we are going to accept the representations of the industry itself.

Mr. QUINN: Can the minister say whether the work of the biological board has increased so much that it is necessary to add two more men to it?

Mr. CARDIN: The members of the board themselves made that representation to us and they felt it would be more advantageous, in order to include the industry, to have four representatives instead of two on the board. The recommendation came from the members of the board itself on representations made to them, I am sure, by the industry.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

## PROVISION FOR READJUSTMENT OF PENSIONS

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee on Bill No. 132, respecting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee—Mr. Johnston in the chair.

On section 1.—Readjustment of pensions of officers and constables retired to pension prior to 31st May, 1924.

Mr. BENNETT: The minister was good enough to supply me with a sheet showing those who would be affected by the change. The next morning I received a telegram from a representative of the old mounted police organization indicating that the measure was not what had been expected; that it went only part of the distance that had been hoped for. I looked into the matter again and I realized there was something in that contention. Members of the force who had been retired on pension prior to a date fixed in the bill find themselves receiving no consideration. The survivors of this class are very limited in number. In other words the benefits are limited to a very small class and a number of members of the old force who retired under the provisions of the law as it existed prior to the date mentioned in the bill, receive no additional benefits. They contend that if these benefits are extended as they are being very considerably to those who retired within the last ten years, it is quite unfair that those who retired 15 or 17 years ago on less favourable conditions should not be considered especially in view of the character of the