

## Supply—Fisheries

predator control, modified hatchery production and oyster and clam culture. I am sure the hon. member would be interested in the oyster culture, because this item would be connected with the operation of the oyster farm of Prince Edward Island.

**Mr. Catherwood:** Would a proportion of this expenditure for fish culture and development be spent in connection with the inland lakes and rivers of Canada, in conjunction with the work done by the provinces?

**Mr. Mayhew:** None of this amount is for inland lakes and rivers. They do not come under this department, but rather under the provincial government.

**Mr. Catherwood:** There is no contribution in this item for the provinces?

**Mr. Mayhew:** No, not for inland lakes and rivers.

**Mr. McLure:** What is the production of oysters in the maritime provinces, particularly Prince Edward Island? What quantity of oysters is shipped to the United States? Are we still importing from that country? What royalties are collected by the department, and what are the rentals on leases?

**Mr. Mayhew:** In 1948 from Prince Edward Island there were 15,464 barrels valued at \$123,115; in 1949 there were 12,326 barrels valued at \$100,426; and in 1950 there were 16,104 barrels valued at \$105,375. The bulk of that is sold in Canada, and some shuck oysters are imported from the United States.

**Mr. Follwell:** I know the minister has said that his department does not have control of inland waters. However, the federal government would have control, I should think, of the export of fish. There is one condition which is causing alarm to many fishermen, and that is that Americans are coming to Canada with tank trucks, taking live fish back and seeding American lakes. It seems to me the department would do well to see how many live fish are being exported. Is the minister in a position to make a statement regarding the possibility of licensing the export of live fish, so that this seeding of lakes and rivers in the United States would not reach the point where American buyers would be able to secure all the fresh fish they required from their own lakes, instead of coming here?

**Mr. Mayhew:** What type is the hon. member referring to?

**Mr. Follwell:** I am referring particularly to bullheads.

**Mr. Mayhew:** Conservation is purely a matter for the provincial government. We

are ready to co-operate if there is anything we can do, but the responsibility is that of the province.

**Mr. Follwell:** Would it be within the jurisdiction of the department to control the licensing of the exporting of live fish to the United States?

**Mr. Mayhew:** I do not think this department would take jurisdictional responsibility without a provincial request. I do not know whether the Department of Trade and Commerce would have any authority to prohibit export.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** I should like to refer briefly to the culture of oysters in the Malagash district. Last year the information given to the committee was very disappointing. When the department undertook the culture of oysters in that territory it held out great expectations for the people who were directly interested. The department acquired certain beds and had them planted and cultivated, but up until last year the results have been most unsatisfactory.

I should like to know what further activities have been carried on up to the present time and what the results have been. There is a large acreage of foreshore there and at one time large quantities of high quality oysters were produced. There would appear to have been a gradual deterioration in production in the area.

**Mr. MacNaught:** The situation on these flats is a most difficult one as the damage from ice is considerable. Back in 1937 approximately nine acres of the shore was reserved in the Malagash basin as an experimental farm. Experiments were carried on much in the way they are carried on in the United States and Europe. Dikes were built in an effort to provide sufficient water when the tide was out in order to keep the young oysters growing.

The great difficulty we find is the lack of interest by the people in that area. We believe that oyster spat can be collected with proper concrete containers and young oysters can be grown there. Of course, later on they would have to be transferred to other areas. If that is done the chances of growing good oysters are considerable. But as I said before, the chief difficulty is the lack of interest on the part of the fishermen in that area.

The production of oysters along the Northumberland shore from New Brunswick down past Pictou has gone up during the last ten years. In 1936 the production was approximately one thousand barrels, and in 1946 production had increased to four thousand