

wieldy. My experience is that you get better work from a committee if it is of reasonable size. From Nova Scotia, originally, we had only three members. Strong representations were made that, as Halifax was really the centre of the fishing trade of the Maritime Provinces, a very much larger fish trade being done there than anywhere else it was desirable that there should be a representative on the board from Halifax who understood the fishing trade generally. So Mr. King, who was recommended by the Halifax board of trade, was appointed. I appreciate what the hon. member (Mr. Chisholm) says, but at the same time I think the different interests are fairly represented by those on the board. I am sure that they will see that no injustice is done to Cape Breton, and that they deal with fishery questions from the standpoint of general interest rather than from the standpoint of locality. When the hon. gentleman made his suggestion, I said I would consider it, and so I have, and have had considerable doubt about it; but I think it better not to have the committee too large.

Mr. KYTE: What the minister (Mr. Hazen) says, concerning the county of Charlotte, applies to the locality referred to by the hon. member for Inverness (Mr. Chisholm). As the minister knows, a very large proportion of the population of Cape Breton are engaged in the fisheries. With respect to the provisions for the open and closed season for lobsters, the island of Cape Breton is to a large extent a separate district. Great difficulties have been met with by the officers of the department in their efforts to work out a scheme of open seasons for the province of Nova Scotia suitable to the conditions and exigencies of all sections. In the spring, the fishermen of Cape Breton are handicapped by the presence of large quantities of drift ice on the coast. In some seasons the ice remains until a very late date, and the consequence is that the lobster fisheries are very much hampered as compared with other places in Nova Scotia. From time to time the fishermen of the island of Cape Breton have made special representations in favour of an extension of the open season to compensate them for the time of which they can not fish on account of the drift ice. The conditions in Cape Breton would thus seem to call for special attention on the part of the advisory board. Antigonish and Guysborough also have large fishing interests. It does seem to me that there

[Mr. Hazen.]

should be at least one member of the board from Cape Breton and eastern Nova Scotia. The suggestion made by the hon. member for Inverness is eminently reasonable. If there was any way by which the minister could eliminate one of the present members of the Advisory Board and substitute for him a representative particularly of the island of Cape Breton, I think it would be in the public interest to do so.

Inasmuch as the minister has intimated that the members of the board do not receive any salary, and are only paid their actual expenses, it is not a position that is so remunerative that any gentleman would be loath to part with. That would make it much easier for the minister to make some change in the personnel of the board, in order that it might more directly represent the island of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia.

Mr. HAZEN: The appointments are yearly. There is a certain element of fairness in saying that the members of the board should be changed from time to time. We get fresh ideas and fresh blood and there is much force in my hon. friend's contention. What he says about Cape Breton Island and eastern Nova Scotia is very true. The season there is later and that condition was recognized when the season in which lobsters may be caught was fixed at a later time in Cape Breton than in any other part of Nova Scotia.

Mr. KYTE: That is quite true but the presence of ice on the coast makes changes necessary from time to time.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Has the Advisory Board given any advice to the minister on the urgent questions that are before him at the present time in regard to the fisheries? Members are receiving letters regarding the great scarcity of salt in order to preserve fish in the districts where they are not doing a fresh fish business. Another question is that of the extension of the lobster season. At this season of the year members of parliament are apt to receive a good many requests of that kind and it would be interesting to know if these matters are being dealt with by the Advisory Board and if they are giving the minister advice in regard to them.

Mr. HAZEN: By the 15th of this month we will have advice from the members of the board, and also from our officers all over the country, in regard to the desirability of making an extension if the lobster season. As the hon. gentleman knows,