

to last for any time it must be conserved. I am told that the profits from whaling amounts to from twenty to forty per cent. Now it can easily be seen that in consequence of such methods the whaling industry in a few years will be totally extinct. I trust the present government will take these things into consideration, and if it be necessary to do so, take the question up with other nations who are interested, and see that the whaling industry on the Northern Pacific coast is adequately protected, and that such inhuman and unreasonable methods of fishing, as I have described, should be put a stop to. From every standpoint the fishing industry is one that the government should endeavour to conserve, both from the standpoint of revenue, and the standpoint of building up a population on the Pacific coast which will constitute a bulwark for the Dominion of Canada. For the prairie provinces it is essential that they should have a port on the Pacific coast, if their development is going to be what they hope it will be. If the Pacific coast is going to be of any use to Canada then it must be under the direct control and dominance of our own countrymen, people of our own race and sentiment, of our own religion, morals and national ideas. I do not think that we should any longer permit the present condition to obtain, and continue to issue licenses to Japanese and Chinese, thereby fostering a policy which has already proved most suicidal to the fisheries. It is necessary for our future welfare that we build up on the Pacific coast a population which will be a credit to Canada, and a bulwark to this Dominion; and permit me to say in conclusion, that I think the time is not far distant when the Dominion and the empire will need a bulwark on the Pacific coast.

Mr. F. H. SHEPHERD (Nanaimo). I have no hesitation in endorsing every word that has been uttered by the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. Stevens), and the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Barnard). They laid great stress upon the fact of the inadequate patrol of the fisheries on the Pacific coast. I am credibly informed that when the present patrol is out of sight, on the south and west coasts of Vancouver island, which is partly in my constituency, no less than from 200 to 300 vessels of various descriptions are waiting to enter the protected zone and to poach in our Canadian fisheries. I am pleased to hear that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has consented to a very substantial appropriation for the establishment of an efficient patrol service for the protection of our fisheries. I might also add that it would serve a very good purpose on the west coast of Vancouver Island, which is known probably as the most disastrous locality to the mer-

cantile marine on the Pacific coast, and which has become known as the graveyard of the mercantile business—I say that an efficient patrol service might well be used as an aid to the present life-saving service. My friends and colleagues from British Columbia have pretty well covered the ground, but there is one thing I would like to draw attention of hon. members to. It is not the salmon fisheries or the larger fisheries in which I am particularly interested, but it is the herring fishery. The town of Nanaimo my home town is the home of the herring industry, and I regret to say that this industry is entirely in the hands of Japanese fishermen. I want also, to criticise the method of issuing licenses which has been heretofore in vogue for herring fisheries, and which has been much abused. I am credibly informed, although this is a hard matter to prove, that licenses given to white people have been farmed out to Japanese fishermen for a consideration, ranging all the way from \$750 to \$1,500. As I say, this is difficult to prove, but it is generally believed to be a fact. It is an easy matter for the white man who has got a license to establish, at least ostensibly a half interest or otherwise with Japanese fishermen. After the 21st of September last when I was elected to represent the constituency of Nanaimo, I was requested to thoroughly investigate the question of issuing licenses for the herring fisheries. I did so in conjunction with the local inspector, and we made a thorough investigation into the method of issuing licenses. The result of that investigation was to convince me that the process at present in vogue has resulted in a great number of these licenses being transferred from white men to Japanese in an illicit manner, and consequently I recommended that these licenses should be refused to other than bona fide operators which has accordingly been done. I hope the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who has this matter in hand will carefully look into the matter and see that this scandal with regard to the issuing of fishery licenses is removed. I am of the opinion which has been expressed by the hon. member for Comox-Atlin (Mr. Clements), that these fishery licenses should be given to the actual fishermen themselves and only to them. Fish is the people's food and should be as free as the air. At present the licenses fall into the hands of corporations and combinations of capitalists, so that the poor fishermen stand but a slim chance of gaining a livelihood out of the fishing industry. I believe it is contrary to the British fishery law to refuse a license to any applicant offering to pay the fee. I will quote a few words from the British Fishery Act of 1865, which I do not think has been since amended in any way so as to alter the principle laid down.