

certain provisions of the General Inspection Act, 1874."

He said: Under the present law, herrings caught no matter where, if they are inspected by persons holding licenses from the Province of Newfoundland, can be brought into our market and are not again subject to inspection, and have only to pay two cents per barrel inspection fee; whereas fish caught by our own fishermen in the same waters are subject to an inspection fee of fifty cents per barrel, and our own fishermen are thus placed at a disadvantage as compared with those who are licensed by the Newfoundland Government. Under our law no man can inspect fish if he has any interest in the trade; but in Newfoundland the fisherman may be the inspector, and our fishermen are under a disadvantage in that way. The object of the Bill is to remedy that difficulty, so that all fish coming into our markets shall be subject to the same inspection.

HON. MR. POWER—At first sight this Bill might appear to be a very proper one, and when the resolutions on which it was founded were introduced by the Finance Minister in the other House I knew nothing against it. Since that I have ascertained that there is very considerable objection to it. I find that in the City of Montreal opinion is divided. A great many business men there are hostile to the passing of this Bill, and I have had a letter from a gentleman in Halifax who is particularly well qualified to speak upon the subject. He shows that the principal effect of this Bill will be to hinder these Newfoundland herrings from coming to Montreal and Halifax, and will cause them to be shipped direct to the West Indies from Newfoundland. These fish do not come into competition with our own herring at present as they are poor in quality, and the only effect will be to divert the trade from Halifax and Montreal.

HON. MR. OGILVIE—I have not heard from Montreal about this Bill at all excepting from one individual. I have heard from another individual in another place, but they complain that Newfoundland herrings come into Montreal paying no inspection fee at all practically, for it is only two cents a barrel, while the Cana-

dian Labrador herrings pay from forty to sixty cents per barrel. Our Canadian fishermen complain of having to pay so large an inspection fee, while competitors pay almost nothing. If Newfoundland fish are as poor as is stated we would be as well without them while we can get Labrador herrings so good and so cheap.

HON. MR. CARVELL—My idea is that this inspection of fish generally is a farce. In the inspection of flour or butter the inspector puts his trier down through and in each bore he brings up a fair sample of the package from top to bottom; but in the inspection of herrings, if you throw them out of the barrel—which is the only way they can be properly inspected—the injury to them is very much greater than any advantage that can be secured by inspection. The Minister of Inland Revenue speaks of the inspection of fish in some instances being made by the fishermen. I know in our province (Prince Edward Island) we have a large mackerel interest, and in every case the catcher and packer of fish is the inspector. He puts his brand on it, and when it goes to market, Boston being the principal market for mackerel, they are sold on the reputation of the packer or shipper, who is also the inspector. To inspect fish after it is once packed, is simply to depreciate the value from 25 to 50 per cent. The thing is a farce, and the only way to do with fish is to sell them on the reputation of the men who put them up. It is simply absurd to talk of inspecting fish, because it cannot be done properly.

HON. MR. AIKINS—I do not think my hon. friend desires that our fishermen should be placed at a disadvantage as compared with the fishermen who act under Newfoundland licenses, and who also fish in our waters. That is, I understand, the case, that some Canadians are licensed as inspectors by the Newfoundland Government. They fish in our waters and come into our ports with fish that are not inspected, whereas our own fishermen are subject to an inspection fee of from forty to fifty cents per barrel on their fish.

HON. MR. CARVELL—And then they are not inspected.