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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

THE LOBSTER FISHERY.

In practically all the speeches made in the House by members of the Government, emphasis is laid on the fact that the various fisheries constitute the vital industries of this Country. But if we are to judge from their actions—or rather, lack of action—they either hold no such opinion at all, or have deliberately set themselves to neglect these industries and allow them to fall into decay and ruin.

The estimates, as tabled the other day by the Minister of Finance, contain provision for increases in the public expenditure amounting to close on \$200,000. But virtually all of this huge amount is allocated for increasing salaries of Government adherents and for the provision of new jobs with handsome salaries attached thereto, but not one cent goes toward the encouragement of our vital industries.

That there are many aspects of our codfishery that need expert examination and careful attention is very well known. The cull should be standardized; trade agents should be appointed abroad and generally a systematic effort should be made to increase the value to us of our old markets and to open up new avenues for the disposition of our catch. Not even the fringe of the bait problem has been touched; the whale fishery should be carefully inquired into.

But the lobster fishery is a special case in point of a valuable industry that has been allowed to go down to almost absolute failure without any effort having been made to find the cause and to apply a remedy.

We grant that all this deterioration in our lobster fishery has not taken place under the regime of the present Government. But they appear especially culpable because, while this problem has become particularly pressing the last five or six years, they have taken no steps whatever to find a solution; and, on the other hand, they have made ducks and drakes of hundreds of thousands of dollars that might, with great advantage have been applied, in part at least, to finding some ways and means of getting

the lobster fishery back on its old footing of big value to the Country. Forty thousand dollars have been spent every year on what is now such a problematic industry as agriculture—spent in experimentation; hundreds of thousands are flung away on a dredge; "experts" can be imported galore for more experiments on shale and what not, but not a cent is found for real work on saving its lobster fishery to the Country.

Canada is up against the same trouble, but Canada is making a practical effort to remedy it. In this issue appear extracts from the report of the Commission appointed to investigate the whole matter. This Country needs to make some such practical move.

Speaking on this subject in the Legislative Council a few days ago, Hon. John Harvey pointed out the seriousness of the situation and urged the Government to deal with it through the Department of Fisheries.

"The lobster fishery," he said, "unfortunately has declined to a regrettable small volume and it is really sad to see that that is so, for our lobsters are amongst the finest in the world. We used to have enormous numbers of them, but they are simply being destroyed for want of protection and care and I think that the Government directly, or through the Department of Marine and Fisheries ought to take heroic measures, if necessary, with the idea of trying to re-establish the lobster fishery and preserve it as a permanent industry."

"When we consider the small amount of expenditure upon individual plant and outfit that is required, the enormous value of the product as it comes from the water, for it is worth pound for pound six or seven times the value of codfish; the fact that there is no cullage or deterioration, the fact that the article is cash from the moment it comes from the water and requires no long period of preparation, that lobsters are constantly increasing in value, these are facts which make it imperative that something should be done, and all must believe that care and proper legislation will result in rehabilitating our lobster fishery."

"All these things, I say, Mr. President, lead one to impress upon the authorities the need of taking strenuous action, and trying to do something to conserve this most valuable asset."

And the absolute need of something practical being at once undertaken to conserve the lobster fishery as it is and to make it assume its old-time proportions and, thus greatly increase its value to the country, is proven by the figures quoted in the Legislative Council by Hon. John Anderson.

"In 1859," he said, "the export amounted to 76,226 cases containing 3,658,848 lbs. lobsters valued at \$6.20 per case. In 1909 the export amounted to 25,826 cases containing 1,233,848 lbs., valued at \$13.10 per case. During that period the export has declined in quantity 295.1 per cent; the value has increased 211.2 per cent."

"There has been a serious decrease in the catch of lobsters during the past season."

"In 1912, 26,148 cases were packed. In 1913, 16,565 cases were packed. '9,583 cases decrease."

AS IT IS ELSEWHERE

Three members of the Quebec Legislature have been forced to resign because of charges preferred against them by a Montreal daily paper.

We prefer this fact to the notice of Sir Edward Morris, with the suggestion that he investigate the apparent connection of certain members of his Executive with a shady mining prospectus.

This matter was well ventilated before the election; at least one of the ministers concerned was defeated, but others have been returned to power. Let the Prime Minister show his desire for clean, straightforward government by taking up this matter at once. Make a public investigation and punish or exculpate the politicians concerned.

Consider the action of the Quebec Government, Sir Edward, then "go and do thou likewise."

WITH THE SAGES.

He that dies pays all debt.

Heaven doth with us as we with torches do,
Not light them for themselves; for if our virtues
Did not go forth of us, 'twere all alike
As if we had them not. Spirits are not finely touched
But to fine issues, nor Nature never lends
The smallest scruple of her excellence
But, like a thrifty goddess, she determines
Herself the glory of a creditor,
Both thanks and use.

O, it is excellent
To have a giant's strength;
But it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant.

MR. COAKER PREACHES SERMON IN DECORUM TO HON. J. C. CROSBIE.

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Coaker stated that he pitied one man during the delivery of Mr. Crosbie's remarks on Wednesday night, and that was the Premier, who must have been mortified and indignant at what he was forced to listen to from an associate in the Cabinet.

The Country pitied Sir Edward, for some of his associates were holding his administration up to ridicule, and the prestige of the Government had suffered unnecessarily since the House opened, for all eyes were watching what had transpired.

The House listened in silence and every word Mr. Coaker uttered came distinctly and in a tone that added to the evident sincerity of his words.

It was an admission that the House seldom hears from any of its members. It was a sermon on decorum and the dignity of Parliamentary debate and the conduct of Ministers and Cabinet Ministers that very few in the House could have delivered so effectively and so acceptably.

When Mr. Coaker sat down the Premier showed that the sermon administered to Mr. Crosbie had been fully endorsed by him and the House, and although at first Mr. Crosbie had hesitated to take notes of Mr. Coaker's remarks he very soon left off and when he had an opportunity to reply he sat silent in his place.

Here was a man whom he had violently assailed on Wednesday night without any justification rising in his place to reply and instead of hearing corner boy talk and slang Mr. Crosbie heard from him a sermon that would have done credit to Sir R. Bond or any of the greatest men who have sat in the House, that sank into the hearts of all present and left the sinner ashamed of his conduct and an inward admirer of the man he hates most.

An Offer.

When Mr. Coaker assured the Premier that if he would uphold his dignity as a Premier and Leader of the House he should take steps to punish what had transpired in the House since it opened that reflected upon his reputation as a leader and upon the dignity of the House, that he could, if any trouble was forthcoming in consequence thereof, depend upon the members of the F.P.U. in the House to stand by him in the interest of Right. The members of the House and especially those supporting the Government showed that the F.P.U. members were living up to their duty to those who sent them there and that their presence in the House would prove one of the greatest blessings yet conferred upon the Country, for that intimation alone was enough to justify the presence of a Union Party in the House.

Affairs at the Hospital.

Mr. Coaker referred to the rumors in connection with the wrong-doing at the Hospital and asked the Premier to take the House into his confidence but all the information he got from the Premier in reply was that it was the first he had heard of such, and if Mr. Coaker would put in writing what he had been told, he (the Premier) would ask for an explanation.

Mr. Coaker did put his information in writing and we hope the truth will be forthcoming, for the town has been in a continual twitter for over a month concerning rumors of what was going on at the Hospital. How it comes that those rumors had not reached the ear of the Prime Minister puzzled most of those who listened to his remarks last night.

Mr. Halfyard, Mr. Jennings and Mr. Winsor also took part in the discussion of the estimates yesterday and the remarks of each were well put and showed that they were giving close attention to their duties as the representatives of the people.

Questions were asked by Messrs. Halfyard, Stone, Abbott, Clapp, Kent, Hickman and Targett, and the House adjourned at 11.30, having devoted six hours to the estimates. Thus ended a most interesting and important session of the House and one which again proved that the Opposition Party is fully equal to its duty in the House as well as outside of it.

Notice of Question.

Mr. Stone—To ask the Minister of Public Works to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement of the expenditure of all grants other than local issued by his department to be expended in Harbor Grace District, during the year 1913.

Mr. Stone—To ask the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the amount paid Edward Gardner and Edward Cooper for carrying the mail from British Harbor to Ireland's Eye in the District of Trinity, for the year 1913.

Petitions.

Mr. Stone presented petitions from New Melbourn, asking that a sum of money be allocated to complete the two breakwaters at that place; also petitions from Lead Cove and Wiggerton regarding a fixed time for partridge berries.

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