

that physically it can be done and is there done without objection. It is the accepted method of performing this work in Scotland. My fishery advisers tell me it is a perfectly feasible method and will not work a hardship on the fishermen, and I may say to my hon. friend that, with the exception of the district which he represents, there has been very little complaint. I am just as anxious as my hon. friend is to see that no injustice shall be done to the actual commercial fisherman. Not only do I propose to inquire carefully into this matter in conjunction with the officials of my department, but it is my intention to investigate on the ground this summer if I am spared. It is my purpose to visit every one of these districts and make myself acquainted with the exact situation and the difficulties existing. When that is done I can assure my hon. friend that if I am of the opinion that these regulations are working a hardship, I will not hesitate to revise them. We must keep in mind, however, the welfare of the fisheries, and we must have regulations designed to conserve them in perpetuity.

My hon. friend spoke of the reports of Messrs. Calderwood, Belding and Phelps. He did not make it clear to the committee, and perhaps I should do it, that these reports were not departmental reports. Mr. Calderwood, as perhaps most of the members of the committee know, was for many years in charge of the salmon fisheries in Scotland and is regarded as the best informed man in Scotland as to the Atlantic salmon fisheries. These men were engaged by the riparian association, at their own cost.

Mr. VENIOT: That makes my argument all the stronger.

Mr. RHODES: My hon. friend must bear in mind the fact that they did not come here to attempt to tell the department what ought to be done; I am happy to say they cooperated most cordially and sympathetically with the officials of the department and of the Biological Board. The result was that they were able to pool their knowledge, and while it by no means follows that as the result of one year's experience they acquired sufficient knowledge to be able to say the last word, as it were, with respect to the salmon fisheries in New Brunswick, they made a very good start and they propose to carry on their work during the coming year in conjunction with the officials of the Fisheries department and of the Biological Board. My hon. friend referred to the fact that they conducted their investigation only in the Restigouche river and on the Miramichi.

[Mr. Rhodes.]

Mr. VENIOT: And out in the bay.

Mr. RHODES: One must walk, however, before he runs, and it does not follow that because the work was started that is going to be the end of it. It is the purpose of the department to carry on this work in all the rivers of New Brunswick, and what was done was only a start. It is with some diffidence that I point out to my hon. friend, who is on the ground and has been in contact with this industry for many years, that the regulations which prevailed for a number of years with respect to the tying up of nets—they will be found on page 8 of the fishing regulations of the province of New Brunswick—are pretty stringent, and if carried out would have been far more onerous than the regulations as laid down for this year.

Mr. VENIOT: Oh, no.

Mr. RHODES: We must hope to agree to disagree in that respect.

Mr. VENIOT: I have had personal experience.

Mr. RHODES: In the report of Mr. Calderwood there are photographs showing the difference in the lifting of nets in one area as compared with another. I will not name these different areas, for reasons which will be obvious; but the fact is that the regulations have not been respected in certain places and it was our desire to get a form of regulation which would be general in application and respected all around.

Mr. VENIOT: I admitted that in my remarks.

Mr. RHODES: I do not propose to enter into a discussion with my hon. friend as to whether or not certain fisheries are being depleted, but as a matter of fact the records show that the catch in that very area has been diminishing very materially. If my hon. friend will look at the fishing statistics for 1929 he will find the following figures showing the catches made in New Brunswick:

	Hundredweight
1925	30,073
1926	25,131
1927	22,464
1928	12,557
1929	18,308

There was a slight jump upwards for the last year.

Mr. VENIOT: That is the number of fish?

Mr. RHODES: I am speaking of hundredweights of salmon caught in the province of New Brunswick.