

SUPPLY

MARINE AND FISHERIES

The House in Committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the Chair.

Fisheries — Marine Biological Board of Canada, \$42,000.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The expenditure last year was \$42,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Exactly?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes. This board is mainly a volunteer organization, the members and investigators not being paid. The board's investigations are to throw light on matters connected with the life history of fish, the reasons for deterioration in canned fish product, cured fish and so forth. I can give the membership of the board if the committee wishes. It includes several university professors. The board has a permanent staff at St. Andrews, N.B., and Nanaimo, B.C. The board consists of nine members, two of whom are appointed by the minister and represent the department, the other seven representing the principal universities which are provided with the most efficient research laboratories. This is the usual vote.

Mr. MARTELL: Is Mr. Andrew Halkett in the employ of the Biological Board?

Mr. LAPOINTE: No.

Mr. MARTELL: Is he is not a sort of scientific expert to the department?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes, he is the naturalist of the department, but he comes under the department direct, not under the board.

Mr. MARTELL: What are his qualifications from a scholastic standpoint?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I will ask my hon. friend to wait until next year so that I may have an opportunity of getting the information.

Mr. MARTELL: This man has never been educated at a university, and he has no scientific training. He is simply an accountant, or he was in the accountant's branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. His health broke down, and he was shifted out to tell people about the life history and functions of fish. I think it is rather an absurdity to be sending this man around the country wasting public money telling people about the life history of fish, which he knows nothing about. I may also inform the minister that some years ago

an application was made for the promotion of Mr. Halkett, and his case was submitted to Professor Shortt, then Chairman of the Civil Service Commission. Professor Shortt asked to see some of the reports made by this man, and the information came back to the department that they were the sort of report a grade-eight school boy could get out. I think the sooner this farce is stopped the better.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I shall be glad to inquire into the qualifications of the gentleman. As it is, my hon. friend seems to know a great deal more about him than I do.

Mr. MacLAREN: Does this item include the cost of maintenance of the Biological Department at St. Andrew's, N.B.?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes.

Mr. MacLAREN: I might say that important investigations with regard to fish, their diseases, propagation, and other matters are carried on at that establishment, and so far as its work is concerned, it is on a very sound and profitable basis.

Item agreed to.

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION

Immigration and Colonization—immigration contingencies, \$1,170,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What is the minister really doing to account for the asking of what was voted last year and \$300,000 more?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): First let me say this is the item that was left over to meet the convenience of my hon. friend from Fort William and Rainy River (Mr. Manion). The amount required for 1922-3 is \$1,170,000. The amount voted for 1921-1922 was \$870,000.

Mr. CHAPLIN: How much of that was spent?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Practically all of it if I remember correctly.

With a view to inducing as great a number of desirable immigrants as possible to come to Canada during the year 1922-3, a special committee composed of ministers of the Crown has been formed with the object of studying the immigration situation and laying down a policy which will be to the greatest advantage of Canada. For this purpose the department has considerably increased the amounts under the following headings: