

provinces hardly realize the importance of our fisheries, and this is a branch of the service that must not be allowed to starve for want of efficient men to carry it on.

Mr. CARDIN: The number of guardians is 423.

Mr. CALDWELL: How much would it cost to increase their pay by \$1 a day, which would even then be a small wage? What is the average period of service of these temporary guardians?

Mr. CARDIN: From two to four or five months.

Mr. CALDWELL: An average of about ninety days. Possibly some hon. members do not appreciate this feature of it: we have immense fisheries off the coasts of these provinces. The salmon, for instance, do not breed in the salt water but must go well up the fresh water streams to the cold brooks to spawn and thus propagate the species. In some cases poachers fence the river with hen wire fencing so that the fish cannot ascend. The system is to build a cage covered with this wire netting, anchor it in the middle of the stream and run out wire fences each way to the shore so that the fish are caught on the way up; and from these cages they are taken out by the wagon load. This has been done in more than one instance and in more than one river in New Brunswick. If it continues, the fisheries along the coast will be destroyed, because the fish will be unable to get up to the fresh water brooks to spawn. Our fisheries off the coasts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are something immense. It would be interesting to hon. members to examine the statistics for the past year. I do not know what the statistics of the department indicate, but it is my impression that the value of the fisheries is decreasing, due to the very things of which I speak. These guardians are required to traverse the streams in this wilderness country at a great distance from civilization, in some cases taking their lives in their hands, because sometimes these poachers are fairly desperate men; there was one murder committed on the north shore of New Brunswick, the victim being a fishery guardian, and I do not think the murderer was ever apprehended. These guardians need to be men of nerve and resourcefulness. They are asked to furnish their own boat and blankets, to carry their own food, to build their own camps, practically to spend day and night in this service—all at the magnificent rate of \$2.25 a day. It is not reasonable at all. I do not think I am often heard in this House advocating an increase of pay for anybody, but

this is one case where we are not getting the service because we are not giving enough pay; and so long as the pay is so inadequate we cannot expect anything else.

Mr. MICHAUD: Mr. Chairman, citizens in Madawaska county, in New Brunswick have organized a club comprising actually more than 200 members. They requested the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries to appoint an inspector for Madawaska county. The minister assured us that the request of the members of the club would receive special consideration. I trust that he will not forget.

As to the salary paid to those fish wardens. I may state that it is too small. Many of them work for \$2 or \$2.25 a day. I share the views of the hon. member for Victoria and Carleton (Mr. Caldwell) and I trust that they will be better treated in the future. Moreover, I hope that we shall have an extra fish warden appointed to watch over all the rivers of Madawaska county.

Mr. CARDIN: I shall not fail to give my best consideration to the request of the hon. member for Madawaska.

I repeat what I have said in reply to the hon. member for Victoria and Carleton. I am absolutely sympathetic towards the views he has expressed, and I will do the best I can to comply with his request.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not want to shut anybody off at all, but if we could finish these marine estimates, we could go home. The first item is the really important item, and if we could dispose of it I think we would have done a pretty good week's work.

Mr. BAXTER: I would ask the hon. member to report progress on this item. We have put through a lot of items this afternoon and evening, it is nearly half past ten and I think we might as well let this stand over, because there are a number of questions that can reasonably be asked from all parts of the House on this item.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: This vote involves the whole fisheries in the Dominion of Canada. As has been stated by my hon. friend from Victoria and Carleton, we have in the province of New Brunswick very extensive fisheries. Some varieties of fish will ascend the streams and rivers and spawn, especially some bass and smelt. We have across these rivers, bridges in certain places, and under these bridges there will be a fish passage. The fishermen take advantage of these passages to set traps and fish nets, and obstruct the passage of the fish up the river. I think this should certainly be looked into.