

*Supply—Fisheries*

serve as a disinterested intermediary between the producers and consumers; a centre of general information, etc., etc.; in short, to fulfil all the functions mentioned in the annual report of your department, to wit:

(a) To enforce the laws, regulations, and the articles of the various treaties with regard to the construction of fish slides in dams, the cleaning of rivers, etc.;

(b) To enforce the law regarding the inspection of fish. For the future, it is necessary that the province of Quebec be as well organized in this respect as any other and have the service of real technicians at its disposal;

(c) To enforce the law respecting the manufacture of preserved fish. This branch could be considerably developed with the help of a competent personnel;

(d) To participate in the organization of a biological marine service. We have not as yet profited by the biological marine service as constituted in 1912 by act of the federal parliament. Its intervention would be necessary for us in order to harmonize the conduct of fishing operations with our particular conditions, to instruct the fishermen and the leaders of the industry, and to create a staff to serve the industry;

(e) To centralize the knowledge relating to fishing, in its triple branches, scientific, commercial and industrial;

(f) To direct a centralizing service for catches, as exists, for example, in the maritime provinces;

(g) To see to the distribution of fishing premiums and to the compilation of statistics;

(h) To carry on a publicity movement for sea products and to augment the consumption of fish;

(i) Etc., etc.

The above mentioned activities are organized elsewhere as federal services, are equally necessary in my province, which desires to have them, but our provincial government does not appear to have jurisdiction.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member has spoken forty minutes.

Mr. MARCIL (Translation): Mr. Chairman, it is quite evident that if the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon), is appointed Minister of Fisheries, he will very efficiently discharge the duties of this office. The position is vacant and the house must not be astonished if the hon. member is called upon to administer that department, after the proofs of efficiency he has just given.

I have no knowledge of the fishery development in the county of Dorchester, however, what he has just stated about the fisheries in the counties of Gaspé and Bonaventure has added nothing to my knowledge. They were facts with which I was well acquainted. The hon. member referred back to the year 1922, I shall go further back; thirty-five years ago, in 1897, I had the honour of being the Liberal candidate against the Hon. Mr. Flynn, then Prime Minister of Quebec and member for his native county, Gaspé. The vote, at first, was favourable to me, however, after a

[Mr. Gagnon.]

recount, the Hon. Mr. Flynn was declared elected. My opponent, in 1897, rested the whole of his campaign on the right which the Quebec Legislature had of controlling the fisheries in the province and during the last week of the election, the Hon. Mr. Flynn read a despatch from London informing us that the Privy Council had just decided that the leases for salmon fishing, etc., were under the provincial jurisdiction. The Hon. Mr. Flynn took the stand that this judgment constituted a great provincial victory. It is therefore useless to go back to 1922, as we can go further back and prove that the Conservative party of that day had championed the cause of Quebec, so far as fisheries are concerned.

The conflict continued, and, in 1921, another decision was given by the Privy Council, declaring that navigable waters were under the jurisdiction of the Dominion government, but that the shores formed part of the provincial domaine; the provincial government's authority was supreme on land while that of the Dominion was supreme on the waters. The conflict still continued, since the judgment of the Privy Council had not settled the question and that there existed two jurisdictions, federal at high tide and provincial on land. There was a settlement so far as the Magdalen islands, because they were entirely surrounded with water, and they were left under dominion control.

What interests the Gaspé and Bonaventure fishermen, to-day, are not questions of jurisdiction or administration; they want, especially, markets to sell their fish. When I had the privilege of being elected in 1900, fisheries existed at St. Charles-de-Caplan, St. Siméon, St. Bonaventure, Paspébiac, Port Daniel and at l'Anse-aux-Gascons. It is a section of the country entirely inhabited by fishermen and where fishing was carried on a large scale. The fisheries then were partly under the control of the dominion, and partly under the control of the province. At all events, the fishermen to-day, have no complaint to make in this connection; they are not as well informed as the hon. member for Dorchester on the subject; but what they do complain of, is the lack of markets for the sale of their fish. It is up to the dominion government to find the markets, they are entrusted with negotiating trade treaties with foreign countries and are obliged to find markets for our products. Naturally, the Conservative policy, by increasing the tariff, created, by that fact, the impossibility of trading abroad. My first remarks, in the house, after the advent of this government, condemned this policy, because I was aware