

have pointed out what objection there is to the appointment of a Departmental officer on it: it is because these men are doing scientific work of a special character, and the introduction of anybody but a scientist from the Department will be to a certain extent resented by them.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: What is this purely scientific work which these men are doing, when expressed in English? The vague term scientific work has no meaning for people in practical business, who believe that science should be utilized in some way in the industry, or on the value of fish products.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR: I would refer my honourable friend to the report of the Commission, which is issued every year and gives details of the work of this Board. If he reads that report he will know what work they are doing. The crux of this whole question is the feeling of resentment on the part of the members of the Board against bringing in a Departmental officer who is not a scientist. The Commission is doing special work, it is allowed a special appropriation, and has to account for every dollar it expends, and must report to the Department as to the way it functions.

With regard to the appointment of two laymen on the Board, I would ask who will these laymen be? Perhaps one will be from Halifax and one from Vancouver. Will they be ordinary practical fishermen? No, they will not.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: How do you know they will not be?

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR: I am just going to give my reason.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: Your opinion, that is all.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR: They will not be ordinary practical fishermen, who would not have time or means to attend meetings of the Board at Ottawa or other central points. Naturally men will have to be selected who are engaged in the fishing industry in a big way. Such men will not be representative of the ordinary practical fishermen, but will be business men who, on account of their means and opportunities for travel, will be able to come long distances to attend meetings of the Board. The honourable leader of the Government asked what objection there would be to the appointment of practical fishermen on this Board, and whether they did not want to know the opinions of practical fishermen and men engaged in the fishing industry. If I were a member of this

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Board, and desired to obtain the opinion of practical men in the business, to whom would I go? I would go to practical fishermen who have the knowledge and experience of handling fish and the curing of fish. This Board has all the opportunity that any Board could possibly have for obtaining such information. We know from their reports that they have repeatedly had conferences with fishermen and obtained this information from them. Surely it cannot be argued that two men at the head of the industry at different places would afford this Board better information as to the practical working of the industry than it could obtain by summoning before them practical fishermen and inquiring from them. This Board meets at different places near where the fish are being cured and the fishing industry is carried on, and it makes its investigations there, and is not in the least hampered for opportunity.

May I add that the men on this Board have given a great deal of time and effort to this work without remuneration, and no doubt they are very proud of the work they have done, and what they have discovered and worked out in the interest of the fisheries; and they resent the attempt to take from them the absolute direction—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But they are the majority, and they will be the majority to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR: —the absolute direction of their investigations, by placing on this Board men who have no scientific knowledge. As scientists their direction will be hampered to that extent. Unless my honourable friend can show that this Board has failed in some respects to carry on the work for which it was appointed, why add new members, when we all know they will resent that addition?

No one is more anxious than I am to see everything done in the interest of the fisheries, because I come from a county where a large part of our industry is fishing; but I know that the fishermen of my county would very much prefer to consult personally with this Board at its meetings, to having some rich fish merchant or trader or canner in their vicinity placed on the Board. I do not think the fishermen would feel that such men could represent them as they desire.

Honourable gentlemen know that in a fishing community very often one view on fishery questions is taken by the practical fishermen who go out in the boats and fish, while a different view is entertained by the man who is making money out of their efforts to earn a livelihood. There have been innumerable and important disputes between the fish-