

The CHAIRMAN: How is it that the Americans get the earlier ones?

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Because they come through American territory.

The CHAIRMAN: The later ones don't?

Hon. Mr. McRAE: The later ones come from the north.

Mr. FOUND: The situation is an exasperating one: we hatch all the fish, protect all the fish, and get the small share of the returns.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Perhaps we could deal with the Biological Board just now. The statement which Mr. Found furnished shows clearly the expenses, which total approximately \$940,000 for twenty years. In recent years the expenses have averaged over \$100,000. Why is that, Mr. Found?

Mr. FOUND: When the Biological Board was first formed it consisted only of scientific representatives, the Commissioner of Fisheries being the Chairman of the Board and the other members of the Board being university professors. That situation went on for a number of years—speaking from memory, I think until 1917 or 1918—when the Board was reorganized and by legislation was made to consist of scientific representatives as well as representatives of the industry and of the department. The department itself had felt all along that the Board was devoting itself far too much to what might be called pure scientific investigations, as to the fauna and flora of the sea. After all, these are behind all fish life and are in themselves highly important, but the department was very desirous that what could be better described as applied science should be developed. Following the reorganization of the Board, it was arranged that on each coast there should be in addition to the scientific station that had been established, a station that would be known as a fisheries experimental station, which would do for the fishing industry all that an experimental farm could do for agriculture. That station was established at Prince Rupert—

Hon. Mr. McRAE: When was that station established?

Mr. FOUND: I think it was built in 1925 or 1926. I would like to make it clear to the Committee that in developing fishery scientific work you are met with unusual difficulties, in that universities do not turn out finished men for that kind of work. The men have first to be given the proper education to become good biologists or chemists, or something else, and they become experienced through actual investigation. For that reason it took some years for both the station at Prince Rupert, and the other one that was built at Halifax, to develop a fairly competent staff. That has been done at both places now, and I think some very good progress has been made. For instance, at the Prince Rupert station it has practically been determined how the yellowing of halibut can be commercially prevented.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: This Biological Board does not come under your direction, does it?

Mr. FOUND: It comes under the direction of the Minister. It is a semi-independent institution.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: It is pretty independent, is it not? Do you not think it should be under the department, the same as any other branch is?

Mr. FOUND: It is a matter that I have had different opinions about.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: It has always seemed wrong to me to have those men out there not under the department. It is true the department gives them certain guidance, but they do pretty well as they like, do they not?

Mr. FOUND: No sir.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Some years ago a bill was brought in to put the Board under the department, but that bill was killed. I presume the situation is unchanged to this date, and it seems to me the Committee might well take cognizance of it.