

Supply—Fisheries

because the regulation that applies to one part of the county does not apply to another. The regulations that apply in Charlotte county may not apply in Saint John county under the same regulations here in Ottawa. I do feel that in employing young men on these particular jobs the fisheries department should be very careful to see that they are not power mad. From my experience I would say that a few of them, not many, when they find out they have this authority, do not hesitate at all to use it. I believe it is something that should be very carefully considered.

Mr. Riley: Harking back to the criticism which I offered of some of the officials of the minister's department a few minutes ago, I want to make it quite clear that that criticism was not directed to junior officials in the field but to the seniors.

Item agreed to.

Field services—

147. Protection branch; operation and maintenance, \$2,435,661.

Mr. McLure: The minister has said that illicit fishing comes under this item. I should like to have some information with regard to patrolling in my own province. How many patrol boats are used to do the work in Prince Edward Island, and how many men are employed? Early in the winter I wrote to the minister about a very capable man, a veteran who had served in the army, and I received a satisfactory reply from the minister in which he said he would see to it that this veteran was placed back on the job he had been squeezed out of. However, as time went on I found this man did not receive the appointment, although appointments were made in Queens county which he could have filled. They were filled by men from Prince county. I say this was most unfair to the veteran in question. He has complained ever since that veterans do not get a square deal. I would ask the minister to look into the matter.

This veteran stated to me in a letter that he was squeezed out because in his patrol work, in connection with illicit lobster fishing, he captured too many of the traps and gear, thus bringing upon himself the displeasure of some people who thought he was too efficient in his work because, as a result of his efforts, they were being driven out of illicit lobster fishing activities, which go on continuously in my province, with the exception of the winter season.

I bring these three points to the attention of the minister, in the hope that, even if he cannot give an answer tonight, he will look into them and give some further information.

[Mr. Stuart (Charlotte).]

Mr. Mayhew: In Prince Edward Island we have four of our own boats on the service and three chartered boats. These are all two-man boats.

Mr. Kirk (Digby-Yarmouth): Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer again to a matter I brought to the attention of the minister and his department before. The first occasion was in December of 1949. I refer to a problem which has been in existence for some time, particularly in the southwestern section of Nova Scotia. I have in mind the diverse points of view as to the use of draggers and trawlers.

For a period of two years or so I have been receiving dozens of resolutions, and I can state accurately hundreds of letters, from people who are closely connected with the fishing industry, with respect to the use of draggers, and the alleged damage they are doing. I do not propose this evening to read many of these resolutions or any of the letters, but I should like to deal with the different points of view and to place on record as briefly as I can the views presented by those in favour of draggers and trawlers as well as the views of those who are opposed.

Those who oppose the use of draggers claim that they destroy other species of fish, and they refer particularly to lobsters. They claim draggers destroy large quantities of small fish, that the use of draggers damages the bottom, and thus indirectly damages the fishing industry. They claim that the draggers destroy fixed and set gear.

I should like at this point to mention only one resolution, a brief one which reached me recently from the municipal council of Digby. This resolution was moved and seconded by men who have been in the fishing industry all their lives. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas the Fundy tides—

That is, in the bay of Fundy—

—are too strong to permit marker buoys to float at all times and

Whereas draggers operate at all times of the tide, this makes it extremely hazardous for fishermen to operate with "long line" or "trawl" for overnight or over-tide sets.

Be it further resolved that this board request the Hon. R. W. Mayhew, Minister of Fisheries, to have immediate regulations made to have all Canadian draggers (otter trawl) operate outside of the three-mile limit until such time as the preceding resolutions shall have been considered. By the adoption of the foregoing resolutions, the economy of this fishing area would be assured."

That resolution is similar to the one referred to by the hon. member for Annapolis-Kings about two weeks ago, when he made reference to a resolution passed by the affiliated boards of trade of the Annapolis