

Mr. HAZEN: Are those lakes as large as Lac la Biche?

Mr. OLIVER: No, none of them is as large as Lac la Biche. One of them is immediately adjoining the railroad track.

Mr. HAZEN: My attention has never been drawn to the matter before, but I will consider whether a limit should be imposed.

Mr. OLIVER: I am not suggesting that there should be a limit; I am simply pointing out the facts. Two lakes, Lake Winifred and Lake Christina were opened last winter. Are they to be subject to a limit?

Mr. HAZEN: My attention has never been drawn to them. Where are they?

Mr. OLIVER: On the Great Waterways railroad, north of Lac la Biche. Is there any limit to the catch on Calling lake?

Mr. HAZEN: No, the only lakes I am aware of on which there is a limit are Lac la Biche and Lesser Slave lake.

To pay customs officers for services in connection with issuing *modus vivendi* licenses.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Will the minister state what his policy is with regard to these *modus vivendi* licenses?

Mr. HAZEN: This matter is now the subject of negotiation with the United States Government. There is no harm in saying that I trust a conference will be entered into, by which arrangements will be made that will be satisfactory to the United States, and that at the same time will remove the disabilities under which our fishing vessels are placed at the present time in taking their catch into the United States and in clearing again from United States ports for the fishing grounds, and that the conference will also include the question of the prohibition of the well-smacks the Americans are sending over now, and which lie right outside the three mile limit in the close season and capture our lobsters, that is, lobsters that we are helping to preserve, although they are not ours legally, and taking them back to the United States.

Mr. SINCLAIR: You will not permit them to come within the three mile limit?

Mr. HAZEN: That is not what I say. At the present moment they are coming over, and when we have our close season, they are lying outside the three mile limit, catching the lobsters there and putting them into those wells that they have in their smacks and taking them to the United States. We want to prevent that. That is

[Mr. Oliver.]

one of the subjects in which we think there ought to be a *quid pro quo*. There are matters on the Atlantic and on the Pacific in which both our fishermen and the United States fishermen are interested, and negotiations are being conducted now with a view to get such settlement of all those outstanding difficulties as will be satisfactory to the people of both countries.

Mr. KYTE: Will those negotiations include a change in the license fee charged?

Mr. HAZEN: That is one of the matters in view.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Does it include the admission of American vessels that are propelled by steam?

Mr. HAZEN: Yes. At the present time the *modus vivendi* applies only to vessels propelled by sail. The contention on the part of the United States is that it should apply to vessels propelled by steam or by gasoline. The argument always advanced in the Parliament of Canada was that this concession was given at a time when vessels were not propelled by steam, and that the *modus vivendi* applied only to fishing vessels propelled by sail.

There are a number of these outstanding difficulties. The United States would like to have the *modus vivendi* license reduced from \$1.50 a ton to a merely nominal rate, and they would like to have the right for their vessels to come into our ports for the purposes mentioned, whether those vessels are propelled by sail or otherwise. On the other hand, while our fish are admitted free into the United States, we labour under the disadvantage that our fishermen, who take their catch direct to an American port, after selling their catch, cannot clear again for the fishing banks. There is a good deal to be said on both sides. We are endeavouring to have an arrangement come to which will be fair to both, by which the disabilities will be removed as regards our Canadian fishermen, and at the same time we are willing to give advantages in the directions suggested to American fishermen. I hope that this will prove the psychological moment for the arrangement of these matters.

Mr. SINCLAIR: It would be very satisfactory if the minister could bring about a settlement. A great deal of interest is taken in these matters by the people along the coast. For several years back I have held the view that it would be better to admit vessels propelled by gasoline or steam to the same privileges as are given to sailing