

question. The hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dawson) says, because you put so many fish in the river, they must naturally breed. It does not follow at all. In the hatcheries they are fed by hand up to a certain period, and, when they are thrown into the river, they no longer find their food provided for them, and the instinct which nature provides for young fish to seek their own food is to a large extent deadened or lost by the habit incurred in the hatcheries of having their food provided for them, and it is very generally believed that millions of them die because they have lost the instinct of looking for their food.

Mr. DALY. I am a practical fisherman. I enjoy the sport of salmon fishing every spring, and visit most of the rivers in Nova Scotia. I have visited Gold river, East river, Salmon river, and the rivers of Halifax county and Lunenburg county. I can bring personal evidence to bear to show that in those rivers where fry are sent from the Bedford Hatchery, the salmon have increased, or have at least held their own. I believe, if the hatchery at Bedford had never been established, the rivers I allude to would have been in a much worse state than they are, and each season shows that those fish that have been put in as fry for three or four years preceding come back to the river and have done good. I quite concur, from my own observation and from fishing in those rivers, in the statement that good has been done by the hatcheries, though not perhaps to the extent we anticipated, but I would be very sorry to see that item left out. The Minister's returns will show that those rivers to which fry have been sent from the hatchery have improved or held their own.

Mr. DAVIES. The returns do not show it.

Mr. SPROULE. In reference to fish hatching I am aware that some years ago Mr. Wilmot deposited a number of young fish in some of the rivers there of a kind that had not been before found in that part of the country. Our experience has been that they have grown and done well. With reference to the Inspectors of Fisheries, it appears to me important either that some more stringent rules were adopted and the inspectors required to carry them out, or else that the system should be entirely abolished. From year to year they draw their salary and give little or no return for it, especially the inspectors of inland fisheries. We have a law forbidding sawdust to be thrown into streams and forbidding dams from being built across streams to prevent the fish from going up or down; notwithstanding this law and these inspectors, in my part of the country at least, the law is everywhere violated. These men come up once or twice a year and stick up in some public place a copy of the law relating to the catching of fish out of season and that is all you see of them; but when the time comes to draw their pay they are always on hand. Complaints have been made to me by fishermen on the Georgian Bay, that at least one of the inspectors there permits a relative of his directly to infringe the fishery regulations, whereas others have not the same privilege. The fishermen also complain of a system that appears to be in vogue of giving leases to men for certain districts. They say that parties who, for some reason or other, possess a little influence, get leases to fish in certain districts and keep all others out of that district. Another question is in reference to the size of the mesh. I will say nothing about that now, because I believe the rule of the Minister of Marine is in the right direction. So long as the fishermen were allowed constantly to decrease the size of the mesh there, it would soon have resulted in the total destruction of the fisheries. However, the only points upon which I would urge the attention of the Minister are those in reference to the appointment of inspectors, that they should not be related to men who are directly interested in the business; in giving out licenses, that they should be general

licenses, allowing a man to go anywhere he likes to fish; and lastly, as to the inspectors, that they should either be compelled to discharge their duty, or that the whole system should be abolished.

Mr. KAULBACH. I quite agree with my hon. friend who has taken his seat, that we should encourage fish hatcheries, as they are a great aid in re-stocking our rivers. And while encouraging this branch of the fishing industry, we should not be unmindful of the streams themselves, and see that access is had for the fish, and that obstructions such as exists in some of the rivers in my Province, do not prevail from the want of an inspector willing and ready to attend to his duty. I regret being compelled to make this statement; but it is nevertheless true, and simply the sentiments of other members besides myself. In my own county there are grievances, and I have heard the same in other counties as well. The Lahave, in the county I have the honour to represent, has been obstructed for years by mill dams which prevent the passage of fish, and by sawdust, which not only destroyed the fish, but impeding the navigation of that beautiful river; and although the inspector has been informed of this crying evil, he will not adopt the proper means of overcoming it. I have referred to this on a previous occasion, and I hope the hon. Minister will realize the position, and either compel the inspector—whom I view as a public obstructionist to the river fisheries, a statement I think I am correct in, for at all events, he has characterized himself as such on the Lahave—to do his duty, which hitherto he, as an inspector, has been either too incompetent or unwilling to perform, or perhaps both, or failing that, he be removed altogether, and thereby make room for a better man.

Mr. MOFFAT. The salmon hatchery has been transferred to the river Restigouche for the purpose of re-stocking the rivers, and it is quite right that it should be there. But the greater portion of the fry that is hatched in the hatchery in the Restigouche river is put into that river and at a season of the year when the fry can only be good for trouting; and I can safely say that the treatment the fish frequently receive is cruel to the fish and painful to the observer. You see dead salmon from which spawn have been taken lying on the ground, and the pigs going out and eating them. It may be from the incompetency of the officer, or it may be from the treatment they receive, but I am safe in saying that for the re-stocking of rivers, hatcheries may be necessary, but I do not think it is fair and right that such a valuable fish should be destroyed for the purpose of putting them in there to feed the smaller ones.

Mr. HACKETT. With regard to the question of fish-breeding, a good deal has been said here to-night to the effect that it cannot be successfully carried on. Well, whatever may be said on that point, we know that in the United States this question has engaged a great deal of attention, and public men there have arrived at the conclusion that something should be done, not only toward re-stocking the valuable inland fisheries of that country, but also the deep sea fisheries. In 1871, a gentleman of great experience in this matter, Professor Spencer Baird, was appointed by the United States Government to investigate the whole question of the re-stocking of the inland coast and deep sea fisheries of the United States. He undertook that great work, and he finds not only that he could, by scientific means, re-stock the inland fisheries of the country, but he also undertook with great success to re-stock all the depleted coast and deep sea fisheries of that country. Professor Baird is of the opinion that not only can he successfully stock the inland waters of the United States, but he is also enabled, with proper care and the best appliances, to fill the deep sea fisheries with fish of all kinds. I think this is quite sufficient to show—I do not care what