

this order in council was passed? The value of the biological board figures is further weakened by the punishment inflicted on such runs. I have been interested in this work for ten years. One day I went out and found one of these little streams coming from Cultus lake spattered with dead fingerlings. I asked the man in charge what was wrong, and he said, "Well, we cut three fins off these fish so that we could identify them when they returned." When fish need all their faculties to survive this was certainly some handicap.

The report of the biological board stresses the futility of hatchery work in a small area such as the Cultus lake area. I am advised that in that district there has been a run-out of 2,500,000 yearlings in one year and a return of 81,000. That was in 1927. The scientist who has been employed under the board gives it as his opinion that the lake has enough food every year to produce two and a half million yearlings. If the fishermen catch two fish for every one that returns, in 1927 they caught 160,000 fish which, at twelve to a case, makes 13,000 cases worth \$130,000. That is what this one little district can do, and the food is there to do it every year.

Another charge against the Cultus lake hatcheries is that the cost of food is too high. From a wire that came through last fall I understand that orders were given to dump the fish that were in the hatcheries and close them up because they had not sufficient money to carry on. It was only because of the protests of boards of trade and other public bodies in the Fraser valley that an effort was made to carry on at a reduced cost for food. The biological board had ordered that nothing but fresh beef liver should be used for food, and this is one instance where no attempt was ever made to cut down the cost. Fresh beef liver, at 15 to 20 cents per pound, increased the cost to about \$240 per month. The practical men said, "We believe we can feed them for less than that," and they used stripped fish and dried milk refuse, and reduced the cost of rearing sockeye to one-third the former cost. The cost of collecting was also reduced very considerably. The experience at Smiths Falls last winter, where one man operated five ponds with food costing only a quarter as much as the food used by the biological board, has completely upset the figures of the board in this phase of the work. So if there is any merit in sockeye rearing at a third of the cost incurred by the board, there is no justification

in closing the hatcheries. The evidence which I have produced is based on definite knowledge and proves conclusively that hatcheries have been most effective in maintaining our fisheries. I do not suggest that we should discard the services of the scientists, but I do suggest that some scientists be brought under the department to cooperate with the practical men. That is what we want, instead of having it left entirely to a board of scientists.

The successful method of restoring these streams which have been depleted, particularly in the Fraser area, in my opinion is a combination of artificial and natural reproduction. I think that is admitted by every man who has studied this question. That was done in years gone by when the run kept up. We cannot afford, if we are going to continue to replenish these streams, to dispose of the hatcheries as has been suggested. The two-way method is the only method by which they can be restored. In studying the fish industry I have often wondered what would happen if the same methods were applied to the poultry industry in our province. Hon. members from British Columbia know that the poultry industry has made great advances during the last ten years. We have very large plants in our province, incubators producing thousands and thousands of chicks. Suppose the Minister of Agriculture through his deputy sent out a board of scientists and they said: Now, these birds are costing too much money, they are not just what they should be; we recommend that the hens be turned loose, that they be allowed to go and lay in the grass and brush roundabout, and if you want to keep track of them just cut a wing or a leg off. That is about what they are doing with the fish. If one-tenth of the practical knowledge that has been devoted to poultry were applied to the fish industry we would not be in the sad condition we are to-day.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, oh.

Mr. BARBER: Let me say to the hon. member who groaned, across the way, and to the Prime Minister, that this is a most serious matter. I am dealing with one of the most valuable industries we have in Canada. Other countries are going ahead, Japan by leaps and bounds, and Russia; the states of Washington and Oregon in spite of handicaps, are coming back, and this is the only country in the world that has suggested doing away with the hatcheries. In fact other countries are encouraging them. As I have shown, there is not a state in the union to-day but is encouraging hatcheries. They are not merely