

I have stated, that no great advantage had been derived from it. This is no question of blaming or censuring the Government, but I think we have reached a point in this matter where we either ought to make a very important departure or to give it up altogether. I think it is evident that the fry are placed in the rivers either too early, or from some other reason, which prevents their being of the advantage which was expected. Under these circumstances I think the Government would do well to take the earliest opportunity of ascertaining from the United States and elsewhere what the result of their enquiries have been. At present, so far as I am aware—and I say it very regretfully, because no one is more interested than myself in seeing our fisheries increased all along our shores—I have received information from reliable sources that the fish hatchery at Halifax has been a failure.

Mr. KENNY. As my hon. friend has referred to me, I may mention that I am not in a position to express myself as emphatically as he has done with regard to the results of the Halifax hatchery. There is a great conflict of opinion as to the results of this expenditure. But it is a scientific and a technical question, of which I have no practical knowledge. My hon. colleague has referred to the fact that some friends of mine visited the Sackville River to inform themselves. I was aware of the circumstance, but that was not the object of their visit. I was requested to go there myself, but my health did not permit me to do so. Their object was to see the working of some of the fishways and not what the hon. gentleman supposed.

Mr. DAVIES (P. E. I.) Is it the intention to rebuild the fish hatchery at Dunk River, in Prince Edward Island?

Mr. TUPPER. No, not at present.

Mr. DAVIES (P. E. I.) If the hon. gentleman has come to the conclusion from evidence in his department that these fish hatcheries are beneficial, why does he not have one in Prince Edward Island?

Mr. TUPPER. We have a considerable number of hatcheries in Canada, and the cost of maintaining them is very great. There is considerable discussion in the country as to whether, after our 12 years of experience, we should increase or diminish these hatcheries. At the present time we have great facilities for removing the fry long distances, as we are doing now in some cases from Ontario to the lower Provinces. We have two hatcheries in Nova Scotia besides those in New Brunswick, and it did not seem proper to ask Parliament for a sum to repair the breaking away of the dam at the Dunk River hatchery, the results of which had not been sufficiently satisfactory to justify that course being taken. As for myself, I have not yet come to any definite opinion as to how this system has worked, although I have in my possession an immense amount of evidence which I have read, and which will be laid on the Table on Monday. The evidence I refer to is found in the report of the superintendent of the hatcheries, in which he reviews this question very elaborately from his standpoint, and he is an enthusiastic believer in them. In other countries they are going more extensively into fish breeding every year, particularly in the United States and in the mother country. They have been wonderfully successful in hatching shad on the Pacific coast; and fortunately for us, a great many of those that were hatched in the United States waters have found their way up the Fraser River to British Columbia. Although a great deal of the fry is lost altogether from one cause or another, the fisheries have been greatly aided from the hatcheries. A good argument has been adduced in behalf of the fish-breeding system which I may mention—I am dealing very generally with the subject from the nature of the position in which we stand just now—the argument is that while the rivers have been polluted to the great destruction of fish, our fisheries

would have shown a far greater falling off had these hatcheries not been started. Of that, however, I am not very competent to judge. I shall certainly make it my business to consult with people, and investigate the matter during the recess.

Mr. DAVIES (P. E. I.) I regret that the same thing happens this year that has always happened—we never have a dollar for fish-breeding in Prince Edward Island when these estimates go through. How many fish hatcheries are there in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick?

Mr. TUPPER. There are two in Nova Scotia—at Sidney and Bedford; one on the St. John River at Miramichi and one at Restigouche in New Brunswick; three in Quebec and two in Ontario.

Mr. DAVIES (P. E. I.) Does not the hon. gentleman think that the reason he gave just now for not rebuilding the dam at Dunk River applies exceedingly well to dispensing with three or four of the hatcheries in the Maritime Provinces? The fact is that one fish hatchery is quite sufficient for the whole of the Maritime Province, and the whole enormous expense might be saved. The facilities for carrying ova from one place to another are so great now that there is no difficulty about it.

Mr. KIRK. The Minister said there were two fish hatcheries in Nova Scotia and two in New Brunswick. I have been told that there is something called a fish hatchery on Harbor Lake, in the County of Antigonish. Have you another name for it?

Mr. TUPPER. Mr. Wilmot has constructed several huts at certain places in which he deposits the fry. They are cheap things, run up and left there until the next season, and not at all expensive. They are merely places in which he works with the fry.

Mr. EISENHAUER. How does the department distribute this fish over the different rivers?

Mr. TUPPER. Applications are sent in. Already a large number have been received this year, and this is about the time for distribution. The department endeavors to apportion the fry as fairly as possible in the different rivers that are considered suitable.

Mr. EISENHAUER. Has any been sent to Lahaie?

Mr. TUPPER. There is too much sawdust, I am afraid, just now.

Mr. EISENHAUER. I have not much faith in the benefit of these fishing hatcheries, because we have been allowing sawdust to get in the rivers for the last year or two. I think if the hatcheries are of so much benefit they should make up the loss of fish.

Mr. TUPPER. That is one of the arguments used by the advocates of hatcheries.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Has any fry been put into Lake St. Claire?

Mr. TUPPER. I cannot give the distribution throughout Ontario. All the applications have been received and have been scheduled, and the officers are now endeavoring to apportion the quantity of fish.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Please note Lake St. Claire.

Mr. DAVIES (P. E. I.) Does the hon. gentleman consider that one fish hatchery for the Maritime Provinces is quite sufficient to supply them?

Mr. TUPPER. As I intend to take up the subject I simply ask for the old vote. I dare not at present make a radical change in the system of carrying on the work and I am only asking Parliament to do what it has done for 12 years. In regard to the hatchery in question, there is an