

in the hands of the minister and his officers, and I am sure that when they have had an opportunity to look carefully into it they will realize that there are hardships which should be met in some way. I have not seen the report submitted by Mr. Found on his return from New Brunswick, but it may be said that the fishermen were met, that matters were discussed, and that they were agreeable to certain regulations. I am sure, however, that if the effect of these regulations had been pointed out to them they would there and then have raised the objections they are now bringing forward in this memorial to which I have referred. As I say, I leave the matter in the hands of the minister, but before sitting down I wish to thank him for the attention he has already given it. I am thankful on behalf of the fishermen of my county at least for the changes that have been made in the regulations which were inaugurated last January, I believe, and I trust that now the case has been laid before him the minister will go more fully into the matter with a view to removing these hardships.

Mr. RHODES: I am grateful to the hon. member for the very fair manner in which he has presented his case. I would not for a moment attempt to pit my knowledge of fishing conditions in Gloucester against his, although I have had considerable experience in contact with the fisheries regulations. I think we start from common ground when I say to the hon. member that there never was and never will be a set of satisfactory fisheries regulations. I think we had better begin on that assumption. Our objective ought to be to secure a set of fisheries regulations designed reasonably to serve the fisheries so as to make them perpetual in character, and regulations which will impose the least hardship on those engaged in the fishing industry.

I knew full well, when it was reported to me that there should be changes in the regulations in New Brunswick, what a difficult task I was approaching, and as evidence of that I would point out that we called, after due notice, a conference in Ottawa two months ago, at which there were present the Deputy Minister of Fisheries of New Brunswick; Mr. Gibault, representing the Department of Fisheries of Quebec; our chief fisheries supervisors, and representatives of riparian associations in both Quebec and New Brunswick; and in addition we paid the expenses of nine representative fishermen who were in a position to speak for the fishermen themselves. We sat in conference all day long and the matter was threshed out with the officers of the department. While I will not say that there was cordial unanimity, there was at the con-

clusion of the conference an actual unanimity with respect to the regulations then proposed. And to test public opinion they were promulgated. It was then that we found where the main sources of objection lay. It was following that conference, as my hon. friend will recall, that the deputy minister made the trip to New Brunswick which resulted in these revised regulations. I think my hon. friend will grant that I was keenly interested personally, apart altogether from the interest I took in the matter as Minister of Fisheries, in the conservation of this wonderful fishery. I think he will agree that I am just as interested as he is. Now, our objective is to conserve the fisheries.

Mr. VENIOT: We agree on that.

Mr. RHODES: Yes, I think we are agreed on that. And we shall have gone a long way when we have reached the point where the fishermen themselves realize that there should be no conflict between net fishing on the one hand and the angler on the other.

Mr. VENIOT: You will have to keep the angler out of the picture.

Mr. RHODES: I think it will one day be realized that the interests of the angler and of the commercial fishermen are identical.

Mr. VENIOT: They are getting nearer that point.

Mr. RHODES: One cannot exist without the other, for each has a contribution to make to the welfare of the fisheries. It was from the point of view of the welfare of the fisheries themselves that these regulations were attempted. In the first part of his remarks my hon. friend raised a very serious objection to the method of tying up nets for a space of ten feet. I may observe that this point was threshed out carefully at the conference of which I have spoken. I was an attentive listener, and the officials of the department were able to convince beyond peradventure any of those who made objection that this was a perfectly feasible method. Moreover, I was at pains to find out that in Scotland, under exactly similar conditions, for a period of over half a century they have done not only this but very much more. There they make them take up the whole leader and carry it ashore on Saturdays, bringing it back on Monday mornings, a much more onerous task.

Mr. NEILL: That is due to religious scruples.

Mr. RHODES: Whatever may be the motive behind the method, the fact remains