

Mr. PREFONTAINE moved the following amendment:—

Provided always that the Governor in Council may from time to time renew such license for periods of nine years upon giving six months' notice thereof in writing.

Mr. HAGGART. That makes the Governor in Council give the notice.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. The intention is that the licensee shall give it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Better let that stand and we will make it right at another stage.

On section 2,

Subsection 7 of section 14 of the said Act is repealed, and the following is substituted therefor:—

7. No one shall use a bag-net, trap-net, pound-net or fish-weir of any kind for capturing fish, without a special license from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; and no such license shall extend to the capturing of salmon by such means: Provided that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries may grant licenses for the capture of salmon in specified waters in the province of British Columbia by the use of trap-nets.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Chapter 95, 49 Victoria (Consolidated Statutes) section 14, subsection 7, says:

No one shall use any bag-net, trap-net or fish pound, except under a special license granted for capturing deep-sea fish other than salmon.

This question has been debated a great deal amongst the people of British Columbia.

Mr. KAULBACH. Is that confined strictly to British Columbia waters?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Yes. We are seeking to amend this section to provide for the installation of trap-nets legally under the Fisheries Act, in order to be in a position to compete with the Americans who have been using the same kind of apparatus to catch the salmon for the last seven or eight years, to the great detriment of those interested in the canneries and fisheries of British Columbia as has been strongly urged by their representatives. These trap-nets are already in existence in the northern part of British Columbia under permission granted, I think, ten or twelve years ago. The same question came up at that time, and, from the information I have gathered, the fishermen in British Columbia are divided as to the use of trap-nets, one section wishing to have them allowed and the other section opposing their use. While this question was pending, the then Minister of Fisheries, being under the impression that the question would be settled so as to allow trap-nets, allowed parties to construct and use trap-nets. And, when the law was introduced, this party threatened to make a claim against the government of Canada for a very large amount. Under the circumstances,

Mr. CLANCY.

it was thought proper to allow this man to run these nets till the lumber used in the construction of them should be destroyed by time. But the party is still fishing with these trap-nets. It is stated that this does not interfere with the fishermen of the Fraser River. It is a very important question in British Columbia, and there is a good deal of divergence of opinion as regards the use of these trap-nets, but the majority of the people seem now to be in favour of the use of these nets, that is why this legislation is being introduced.

Mr. HAGGART. What has been the effect of the fishing there? Are the fish diminishing?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. It cannot be said that they are diminishing. It takes about four years for a salmon to grow into condition to be used in the canneries. The extraordinary fact has been observed that it is only once in four years that the fishing is really good. This year, it is expected, it will be less than in any other of this quadrennial period. Next year, being the fourth year, it is expected that the fish will come in large quantities. Different suggestions have been made of improvements being adopted to increase the number of the fish, and I think we have about arrived at the point where we shall be able to act jointly with the provincial authorities and be able to adopt means which will put this great industry of British Columbia on a proper footing, not only for one year in four, but for every year.

Mr. HAGGART. How long does this license last?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. It is renewed every year. I should explain that these trap-nets are very costly. There are different arguments in favour of them, but the best is that if, say 20,000 salmon are caught in trap-nets and the owner of the nets is not able to either sell them or pack them within a certain time, they can be set free without injury, to be caught by somebody else, whilst, with the other apparatus, every salmon that is caught must be canned or else it is lost.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). Is there not danger, in using trap-nets, of reducing the catch of salmon, so that ultimately the salmon fishery will be destroyed? We in Nova Scotia set trap-nets for herring, mackerel, cod-fish, haddock and so on, but if a salmon happens to get into the net it must be set free again. If the fisherman is greedy enough to sell that salmon, his license will be taken away from him. Under these circumstances, only a few can be taken. What I fear is that the wholesale way of catching salmon in British Columbia will greatly injure or destroy the fisheries.

Mr. MORRISON. I regret very much indeed the policy adopted by the Minister of