

Mr. BARNARD: He was not asked the price. He volunteered his opinion.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Well, then, he volunteered his opinion. I cannot express sufficiently to my hon. friend the gratitude which I feel for the way in which he is assisting me. This gentleman expressed his view as to the price of these submarines; he said they should be bought for \$375,000 each. Then they telephoned to Mr. Patterson who had previously seen Sir Richard McBride, and the price is fixed at \$1,150,000, so my hon. friend says, and that amount is paid. And I state to this House that my information is that that amount of \$1,150,000 was divided into two cheques. One cheque for \$900,000 was paid to the contractors, but what became of the other \$250,000 cheque I do not presume to say. These are the facts. Draw from them, if you like, the inference that there has been some wrong-doing. Get angry over it if you like. But in the interests of our country, in the interest of the people who pay this money and who cannot afford at any time, and more particularly in these times of stress, to pay out one dollar more than what a submarine or a gun or a round of ammunition is worth, I ask that this matter be looked into, and when the time comes that a proper and thorough investigation take place.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

Report of the Department of Customs for the year ended March 31, 1914.—Hon. J. D. Reid.

QUEBEC FISHING LICENSES.

On the motion of Sir ROBERT BORDEN for the adjournment of the House:

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL: Mr. Speaker, will you allow me, on this motion, to ask a question of my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen) of some urgency to my constituency? I intended doing so yesterday, but the sudden adjournment of the House prevented me. It is regarding the issuing of licenses for salmon fishing in the tidal waters of Quebec. There is some doubt existing as to whether these licenses are to be issued by the provincial Government or by the Ottawa Government. Notices have appeared in the Canada Gazette and in the Quebec Gazette and I have received a number of letters on the point. I would ask the minister if he would kindly tell us how the matter stands.

[Mr. Pugsley.]

Hon. J. D. HAZEN (Minister of Marine and Fisheries): My hon. friend, with the courtesy which always distinguishes him, intimated to me yesterday that he would ask this question, and I had prepared a little statement so that the facts might be absolutely accurate. In 1898, in a reference known as the Fisheries Reference, to the Privy Council, a decision was given to the effect that whatever property interests in the fisheries were held by the different provinces prior to Confederation remained vested in them subsequent to it, but that the exclusive power to legislate or make regulations governing the conduct of the fisheries is vested in the Federal Government. As soon as that decision was given, or immediately afterwards, all the provinces that are sea-washed and have fisheries claimed the fisheries, not only in the tidal as well as the non-tidal portions of all the rivers, but in the bays and in the three-mile limit as well. The officers of the department in Ottawa, however, contended that, while there was no question about the non-tidal fisheries being owned by the provinces, in tidal waters, no matter where situated, there is a public right of fishery controllable only by the Federal Government and Parliament.

At the time it was hoped that the outstanding question of jurisdiction in tidal waters could be settled amicably, and all the provinces affected, except Quebec, agreed that pending a settlement of such question the Federal Government should continue to administer the fisheries in tidal waters as theretofore. It was finally arranged with Quebec that, pending such settlement, the jurisdiction of the fisheries on the south side of the river and gulf of St. Lawrence, and on the north side west of Point des Monts, would be handed over to the province, while the Federal Government would continue to administer the fisheries east of Point des Monts.

The negotiations with the provinces took much longer than was anticipated, and in 1908 British Columbia decided to act on the assumption that it possessed the property interests in the fisheries in tidal waters, and consequently started to require licenses from fishermen before they would be allowed to operate therein.

There were negotiations and finally a reference of certain questions to the court was agreed to with British Columbia, and these questions were so framed as to decide the matter in all the other sea-washed provinces. While the reference was with British Columbia, the other interested