

Supply—Fisheries

Then there is another very interesting reference with regard to whaling. This is in relation to a voyage made from Bristol in the year 1594 by a ship called the *Grace of Bristol*, owned by a man named Mr. Rice Jones. It made a voyage to the gulf of St. Lawrence at that time. He speaks first of the island of St. Pierre, which he calls S. Pedro:

In these isles of S. Pedro there is a faire harbour which we went into with our barke, and found there two ships of Sibiburo fishing for cod: where we stayed two dayes and tooke in balest for our ship.

Then a little further on he has this to say:

Then wee departed thence, and as we came out of the harbours mouth we laid the ship upon the lee, and in two houres space we tooke with our hookes 300 or 400 great cods for our provision of our ship.

Further on he had this to say, after they entered the gulf of St. Lawrence:

In this bay of Saint George we found the wrackes of two great Biskaine ships which had bene cast away three yeeres before, where we had some 700 or 800 whale finnes and some yron bolts and chaines or their mayne shroudes and fore shroudes.

Then he mentions that there was a great store of whale oil in puncheons at that time, but it had been destroyed in the meantime by the surf. That was in the year 1594. At a much later date, just after confederation apparently, the resources of the gulf fishery were still very great, and I quote from a booklet which is put out by the Canadian citizenship branch. It has this to say in connection with the fisheries resources:

Great concern was felt over the violation of Canadian waters by American fishing vessels. The extent of their operations was such that there were often "between 400 and 500 United States fishing craft in the gulf of St. Lawrence alone, with a tonnage of over 30,000, manned by over 6,000 men, taking fish to the value of over \$1 million."

It would seem to me that at the present time the gulf of St. Lawrence has lost its pre-eminent place as a great fishing area. But I am pleased to see that new methods have been brought into use recently. I refer to the draggers which are now being used in the gulf. I hope the venture proves successful, and I think it has possibilities of proving successful from a marketing point of view, because of the new methods which the minister mentioned with regard to filleting of fish. A new and very energetic little plant is operating in Souris in Prince Edward Island. Although it is not in my constituency I am very pleased to say that up to now at least it seems to be progressing very well and quite successfully. The real key to the success of reviving the fishing industry of the gulf of St. Lawrence so that its potentialities can be fully realized lies perhaps in further research into the causes

[Mr. MacLean.]

of fish depletion, and then of course the framing of suitable regulations to correct the cause of that depletion.

In that connection I should like the minister to review briefly, but perhaps in greater detail than he did, if I am not imposing on him too much, the success that is attending the conservation of the chief types of fish which are taken in that area, with special reference to lobsters, oysters, cod and also Atlantic salmon.

There is not too much more I want to say, but I should like special reference made to the benefits, if any, which are accruing from the new type of measurement of lobsters, the carapace method, which is brought into use and the new regulation with regard to the measurement of lobsters. I would also be pleased if the minister would give us some information on the operation of a new scheme of insurance as far as lobster fishermen are concerned. I refer to the insurance that is now available to them for insuring their gear. I do not intend to take up any more of the time of the committee just now, but I have a few questions that I shall put on the appropriate item.

Mr. Dickey: I too want to congratulate the Minister of Fisheries on the interesting and excellent review that he gave us of the operations of the department and some of the more important aspects of the international work that is being done over the broad field of fisheries research and conservation these days, in which Canada is playing such an important and essential part. It was a good speech, and the minister deserves the compliments that he has received upon it. But I think it should be said that his speech was only an example of the intelligent and vigorous effort that the minister is putting into the carrying out of his responsibilities in this important portfolio of fisheries, and it bespeaks well for the future of the department and of the department's work that we have a minister such as the hon. gentleman who holds this portfolio at the present time.

I should also say that we all recognize the minister receives excellent support and co-operation, and I am sure good advice, from his deputy minister and the other officials who are experts in their fields, and who have over the years obviously exercised good judgment and have taken a very long range and sensible view of fisheries problems, and have made great contributions to the advances that have been achieved.

The fishing industry is one of great importance to my province of Nova Scotia, and of particular importance to the constituency of Halifax. In Halifax we have important