

my office, and he asked me to bring a certain matter to the attention of the hon. member for Kings (Mr. J. J. Hughes), who I see is not in his seat. This gentleman told me that fishermen on that island started fishing for smelts without licenses for the reason that the officers had no licenses to grant them. They did not fish before the season opened, but they fished before they received licenses; they went on fishing without licenses, and they were fined for doing so. I do not say that my information is correct, but if it be so, it only goes to prove that the business of the department is not being looked after as it should be. The hon. member for Digby (Mr. Jameson) said the other day that the department was getting into a rut and that it was time it got out of it. I do not criticise the minister for finding the rut because the department was in that state when he took office, but there is no excuse for the minister, after five years, not getting out of that rut and placing his department on a business-like basis.

Mr. HAZEN: My hon. friend is quite correct in saying that the system which he is condemning so forcibly to-night—and I do not say without some justification—is the same system that I found in force when I came into office, and which has been in force since Confederation; but if he says that I should have got that system out of the rut in five years, I would like to know what my hon. friend has to say about his own party who were in power for fifteen years and never got that system out of the rut. I have got it out of the rut so far as western Nova Scotia is concerned, where we have made a reorganization that is working satisfactorily. We have a reorganization effected in all the western provinces and in British Columbia, and we hope to effect a reorganization along similar lines in other parts of Nova Scotia, in New Brunswick, in Prince Edward Island, and in a section of Quebec. With regard to Prince Edward Island it is claimed that the habit has been for the fishermen to go on fishing and take out their licenses in the middle of the fishing season or after the season is over. That is a very bad and improper system, and notices were issued by the department—with the desire to get out of the rut that the hon. member refers to—that these licenses would have to be taken out before the season commenced, and these notices were distributed throughout the district where the fishing takes

place. In view of that, if fishermen are allowed to continue fishing without taking out licenses, and if no attention is paid to such notices, how is one ever going to get business methods introduced or get out of the rut? In consequence of fishermen having disregarded those instructions, and having violated the law, they were in some cases brought before the Court, and where offences were proved against them, they were fined. I have been informed that the old habit had prevailed so long that people did not think we were in earnest when we said we intended to have a better system, and in view of that, that perhaps it would be a proper act this year, when we were for the first time enforcing the conditions, to have the fines refunded, and this matter is being considered by the department. My hon. friend, however, will see how unwise it would be to allow that system to continue, instead of to put it on more businesslike lines as he himself is advocating in this House to-night. It is represented to me that the statement made by my hon. friend that these licenses could not be procured is not the case. The licenses were there.

Mr. COPP: My information was that these men could not obtain their licenses in time for the opening of the season. As my hon. friend says, they had been in the habit of starting fishing without a license, and they fished for two or three days, not with any idea of evading or infringing upon the law or regulations with regard to the fishing of smelts, but because of the licenses not being procurable. They got the licenses two or three days later on, but informations were laid against them, and fines were imposed of \$5 or \$10 apiece and costs.

Mr. HAZEN: It was nothing of the kind; the amount they were fined was the amount of the license fee they would have had to pay in any case. Of course, there would be a certain small amount of costs.

Mr. BOULAY (Rimouski) (Translation): Mr. Chairman, since the committee is now considering the salaries of certain employees of the Marine Department, I shall take upon myself to offer a few remarks as to the electoral district of Rimouski-Matane. I have just heard my hon. friends on the other side of the House intimating that in their own constituencies the employees of the department are not as well paid as others in different parts of Nova Scotia, owing to political considerations. I shall point out to the hon. Minister of Marine that in the county of Rimouski, although