

limit than the Minister imagines. That fact must be proved by the prosecution, and it will be found that not very many come within it. So far as our local fishermen are concerned, I have come a good deal in contact with those of my county and I know something about them. There are no men in my county, and a large proportion of the people are engaged in fishing, who do not look upon purse-seine fishing as not only destructive to the fish but as tending to keep the fish away. During the last two years the fishing has been very bad in my county, and the people naturally attribute it to the purse-seine fishing. It is because my constituents are practically interested in this subject that I am glad the Minister had seen fit to deal with it, and I am glad he has not only done so as regards the three-mile limit, but also that, having that law on the Statute-book, the Government may be able when they go to the United States to show how advanced we are, and to argue during the negotiations that the Americans should, if they expect the fisheries to prosper, agree that purse-seines should be prohibited outside as well as inside the three-mile limit. I take this to be a strong point, that the penalty is severe because it will not strike very many people in Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Who will it strike? It will not strike the Americans.

Mr. TUPPER. It will prohibit the use of purse-seines within the three-mile limit.

Mr. FRASER. It will prevent the men who have purse-seines using them within the three-mile limit, and it will at least keep that fishing ground for our local fishermen. I am not anxious about the Americans, except so far as regards preventing them from coming near us at all—that is, within the three-mile limit. It was stated by an hon. member the other day, when speaking of the three-mile limit, that the Americans should be allowed to fish within those waters. I do not agree with that opinion, and I assert that they should never be allowed to fish within the three-mile limit. From the investigations I have made I do not believe they should ever be granted that privilege.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) There is no question of the Americans fishing within the three-mile limit.

Mr. FRASER. If we have effective legislation it will prevent this purse-seine fishing within our limits. It is not very often that purse-seine fishermen will come within our limits, but it may occur occasionally. If a shoal of mackerel strikes inshore they are liable to follow it and use purse-seines within the three-mile limit. I want all the fish within that limit to be preserved for the fishermen who live on the shore. I believe the old modes of fishing were not only less destructive to the fish, but that the quantity caught each year gave better results to our fishermen. A few hundred barrels may be taken in a purse-seine and a liberal return given to the purse-seine fishermen; but if that quantity were taken by 100 or 200 fishermen the fishermen as a whole would be more greatly benefited. While I admit that the penalties in the Bill are severe, I cannot believe there are many occasions on which they will affect the men who know the law is in operation. But it will prevent purse-seiners coming within the three-mile limit and allow our local fishermen to fish undisturbed within that limit. I have, therefore, much plea-

sure in finding myself for once supporting the Minister and the Bill which he has introduced.

Mr. GILLMOR. The hon. gentleman has not touched the question at issue, and has made no reference whatever to the objection taken to the Bill by the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies). He has talked about the Atlantic Ocean, from one end to the other, about the three-mile limit, about fishing inside and outside of it, but he has not dealt with the subject of the penalties to be inflicted for the violation of the law. In my humble opinion the objection taken to the measure by the hon. member for Queen's is a reasonable one. The penalty for violating the law varies, it may be \$50 or \$1,000 fine, but no matter how slight the offence may be the ship is confiscated. This being a new measure, the penalty proposed by the Minister is extreme. That is the point at issue, and in that view of the case I agree with the hon. member for Queen's. With respect to purse-seines destroying the fish, that is altogether a matter of guess-work. If next week the catch of mackerel proved to be as large as it was ten years ago they would hold that purse-seines have not destroyed the fish. It is true we are all very wise about the fish and their movements. The Scriptures, however, tell us, you cannot tell the way of the fish in the ocean. When the fish do not happen to enter a man's weir or purse-seine he immediately says they have all gone. The Atlantic Ocean has a very large surface, and the fish are not always caught at the same place. Their habits and their haunts vary; but neither the mackerel nor the herring are going to be exhausted. With respect to the remarks made by the Minister as to the enormous amount of fish taken in purse-seines, I am satisfied that if herring are taken which are worth saving the fishermen make use of them. So it is with respect to cod. If they are sufficiently large to be marketable they cure them and put them on the market. The point is narrowed down to this simple question: Cannot you leave to the court, not only the adjudicating of penalties varying from \$50 to \$1,000, but the question of confiscating a vessel for an offence, however slight? I think the measure is extreme in this particular, and should be amended.

Mr. KAULBACH. I was pleased to listen to the utterances of the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) who has just taken his seat. He appears to thoroughly understand the habits of the fish and the interests of the fishermen, and I think we may look forward to the time when the hon. gentlemen will sit on this side of the House.

Mr. FRASER. If I thought that would happen, I would take back all I have said.

Mr. KAULBACH. The remarks that emanated from the hon. gentleman were almost exactly on the line of a letter addressed by me some time ago to the Minister with respect to the grievances of which he complains. We now find in Nova Scotia that the purse-seine fishery has been a serious injury to fishermen, that it has so depleted the fisheries along our coast so that in many instances the fishermen have been compelled to give up that industry altogether, and in other instances they had been compelled to look after the deep-sea fishery in consequence of the Americans coming to our shores, as they have hitherto done, and sailing through the nets of the poor fishermen