

THE KIRK IN CONCLAVE

SPECIALLY WIRED FOR GUARDIAN READERS

and a greater day. The laurels of the evening were for Dr. Thompson. For he came unafraid, fresh from kindred battle and assured of kindred victory. From the United Free Church of Scotland came, and in the fullness of the power and cost of any living church and Christ to join hand in hand and heart to heart with any kindred body of believers and tollers and evangelists. Very adroit were the tactics of this dexterous Scot who began by sympathizing with the Ant's in the former estate, cheers from the desolate few leaping to meet his utterance, but the sugar coating was over now. Then followed the medicinal, and the convincing delegate literally smote them hip and thigh with his crushing claim by God and man attested now, that the liberty of a church cannot be abridged as it is by the selfishness and large usefulness which is the very vital point, of the whole great contention, the ever growing authenticity of which shall light the propensities of union down to latest generations. Meantime, like a child that happily holds the end of the reins, while the father drives, the Martyred Principal, down at St. Andrew's was reminding his hearers that, "the church is a house of prayer and not an auditorium," this bearing fruit in round after round of deafening applause, while the sermon was being delivered. There followed an arraignment of seeking and by "legislation," the skeleton of the "writ" in the Supreme Court of Ontario, doubtless grimly haunting every peaceful breast the while. Then for the principal can be eloquent—an eloquent appeal to "fight the battles of the Lord on a Presbyterian basis," probably the most ill-proportioned and top-heavy theological utterance to modern religious debate.

Evidently the world is to be redeemed from strict Presbyterianism's or not at all. Really, it does to the most charitable heart, look for all the world like a choice between the forward view and the backward gaze; between the conflicting claims of your grandfather on the one hand and your grandchild on the other.

By Mr. Harry Wilmut

TORONTO, June 10.—At this morning's session of the Congress, the name which the Non-concurrents have taken until the new assembly is organized having dropped the appellation "continuing." The name was rejected from the Toronto districts throughout Canada.

MARITIME FISHERIES

(Continued from Page 1)

ried out in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as long as they are not applied to the Province of British Columbia and we in that province are allowed freedom of conscience and liberty of action.

Mr. DOUCET: I am surprised that a member from Nova Scotia should tell the country that there is so much fishing going on in his province on Sunday. In our section, in New Brunswick, the Sabbath is observed much better than that. However, that is apart from the vote under discussion.

Mr. HANSON: Would the minister explain what this is for? Mr. CARDIN: The proposed appropriation is to enable investigation to be made into the best method of preparing fish for market; also the dissemination of useful and important information among the fishermen and dealers; also to enable measures to be taken for the expansion of the demand for fish, and to carry out undertakings of importance for the benefit of which any fishery might be provided for. Under this appropriation educational stations are being established at Halifax and Prince Rupert. Assistance is also being given to the Canadian Fishermen's Association in carrying on an advertising campaign looking to the expansion of the trade.

Mr. DOUCET: In connection with the conservation of deep-sea fisheries I want to remind the minister that during the last session of this parliament the Marine and Fisheries committee adopted unanimously a resolution moved by the hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacLean) that, owing to the extremely rough weather in the month of October practically every year, the open season for lobsters, which today is from the 15th of October to the 15th of October, should be changed to read from the 6th of August to the 5th of October. That resolution, as I happen to be present, was passed unanimously on the 17th of June, and it was communicated by the clerk of the committee to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. That was in accordance with and following a suggestion made at a meeting of that same committee held on the 30th day of April, 1924, at which meeting it was stated that an expert of the department was expected to visit the various phases of the fisheries in those provinces. Now the claim is made by some, possibly by some departmental official that the fish would not be in a condition to place on the market so early in August. The bulk of the fishermen contend otherwise. As a matter of fact, in the month of February last year a delegate from that section, and representing practically all the fishermen of the section, came to Ottawa with a petition asking that the open season should run from the 1st day of August instead of the 15th. We met in the Marine and Fisheries committee and thought that we suggested a compromise, and we suggested advancing it by ten days for last year only, particularly in view of the fact that an official of the department would be on the ground and would be able to get first-hand knowledge as to whether the fish were really in a condition for market so early in the month of August. Unfortunately that was not done. There is no use harping on that, but what I do say is this: I understand that Dr. Knight of the Biological Board is to spend some time in the Maritime provinces this summer in connection with the lobster trade, and with the canning establishments, and I humbly suggest to the minister, through you, Mr. Chairman, that the fishermen of that section of the country from Chockfish to Bale Verte, be given

the privilege of fishing for lobsters beginning on the 6th day of August and running to the 5th day of October, following the suggestion that was made by the Marine and Fisheries committee last year, and Dr. Knight would then have an opportunity to learn whether the lobsters at that time of the month were in a condition to be marketed.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it is well known to all those who reside on the straits of Northumberland that practically every year, during the first two weeks of October, severe storms occur which occasion great damage to the fishing gear of the men engaged in this industry. As a matter of fact the fishermen are anxious to bring their gear ashore during the first week of that month, rather than expose it to the risk of being completely destroyed by the storms which make their appearance almost every year. If the lobsters are fit for the market at the time referred to why not allow the fishermen to take them, and in that way enable them to obtain a better livelihood than they have been able to secure in the past? I make the suggestion in all earnestness, fortified by the fact that the same suggestion was advanced last year in the Marine and Fisheries Committee by the hon. member for Prince.

Mr. MacLEAN (Prince): In regard to the suggestion that the lobster fishing season should start on the 5th August and end on 5th October I may say that Mr. Cowie, of the Marine Department, visited our province last year and met the fishermen of the different sections of the coast at a number of duly advertised meetings. I presume Mr. Cowie also visited the New Brunswick shore and held similar meetings there. At those meetings fishermen came and submitted their evidence to Mr. Cowie. There is no doubt there has been a strong demand to have the season changed; but apparently last year there was not as strong a demand as in former years on account of the business of shipping live lobsters to the United States which has developed largely within the last few years. People concerned in that business felt that possibly the shipment of live lobsters in the early part of August, when the weather was extremely warm, would not be as beneficial and might not turn out as was desired. After ascertaining the opinion of a great many fishermen from the different localities along the coast the consensus of opinion seemed to be that possibly for this year it would be better for the season to commence at the same date, namely, 15th August. The question of whether or not the lobsters were in a fit condition for human consumption at that time was also brought up, but there did not appear to be sufficient evidence to justify any definite conclusion. I am strongly of the opinion that the change suggested would be of great benefit to the fishermen because it will enable them to save their lobster gear before the late storms make their appearance. I think the Minister of the season on August 5 would possibly meet with the approval of those interested. As I say the only possible objection was as to whether lobsters could be shipped in proper condition in the hot weather.

While I am on my feet I should like to refer for a few minutes to the oyster industry in Prince Edward Island. I think those who have any practical knowledge of oysters will acknowledge that the Malpeque oyster, from Malpeque bay, Prince Edward Island, was the finest oyster ever put on the market. Perhaps I am not in order in discussing this question in connection with the present session, but I have any practical knowledge of oysters will acknowledge that the Malpeque oyster, from Malpeque bay, Prince Edward Island, was the finest oyster ever put on the market. Perhaps I am not in order in discussing this question in connection with the present session, but I have any practical knowledge of oysters will acknowledge that the Malpeque oyster, from Malpeque bay, Prince Edward Island, was the finest oyster ever put on the market.

Mr. MacLEAN (Prince): A number of years ago the local government, with the idea of developing the oyster industry, obtained control of the oyster areas from the Dominion government. The provincial authorities then leased those areas to people in the immediate vicinity of the beds, located in certain bays and rivers, and also accorded them the privilege of importing American oysters for planting on those beds in the hope of stimulating production. As a result of the importation of these oysters some kind of disease or some species of insect was introduced and the consequence was that the areas which formerly produced oysters of such fine quality to such a wonderful extent were rendered completely non-productive, scarcely any live oysters being left in any of the bays or rivers. The report of a scientist who investigated that destruction of the oyster industry, which bored into the shell, or entered into the body of the oyster in some way. However, the scientist in question was of opinion that the disease which would probably occupy seven years, the insect would disappear, and restorative measures might be adopted. I have endeavoured to get some information on the subject from the Department of Marine and Fisheries but they do not seem to have any data which has any direct relation to it. I have also written to Dr. Knight on the subject but have received no reply as yet. The residents contiguous to the oyster areas, however, are of the opinion that the trouble has now disappeared and that the time is ripe for taking the steps necessary to restock the oyster beds. I think there has been some correspondence exchanged between the federal and provincial authorities with respect to the latter transferring back the control of these oyster areas to the Dominion government. It is possible for the local government to undertake the work of development and restocking the oyster beds because they do not possess the necessary funds. It is only through the instrumentality of the Department of Marine and Fisheries that we can expect the necessary steps to be taken in the case of restoring these devastated oyster beds to their former condition. That such a work should be undertaken is most desirable. The oyster fisheries in the

revenue to the fisherman of Prince Edward Island. When engaged in these fisheries he needed no expensive plant. For twenty-five or thirty dollars the fisherman could provide himself with a small boat and outfit, and his earnings from oysters, oysters, oysters, would yield him from \$200 to \$300. Unfortunately the industry has been wiped out, and in consequence many people have been compelled to leave the province and seek employment elsewhere. As I have already said the Malpeque oyster was of unsurpassed quality. It was obtained from the unutilized waters of the Atlantic coast, uncontaminated by sewage from large cities as is the case of many of the oyster beds of the United States and elsewhere, and constituted a delicacy rather than a danger to the public health. I do not plan with the government to do anything in this matter and carry out the necessary investigations with a view of seeing what can be done with a view of renewing these oyster beds and restoring them to their former healthy and productive state.

Mr. ROUCHAUD: We have several oyster beds in my constituency. Some of them are not doing well, but others are thriving. I doubt if the industry really be made a success, but I hope the Department of Marine and Fisheries will investigate the matter fully and see what can be done in that direction. I understand the question of oyster development has been left to the different Maritime provinces for several years past, but that negotiations have been in progress with a view to transferring the oyster beds to the Federal government. I understand that two of the provinces have fallen into line and have decided to hand over their oyster beds to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I believe that Prince Edward Island has not yet followed the example set by those two provinces. I hope that province will do so soon, in order to allow the department to get into this matter with some degree of seriousness. Oyster culture has been adopted by several countries, such as Japan, China, for instance, has cultivated oysters for the last three hundred years. Japan and the United States have also gone into the business very extensively and have made a success of it after spending large sums of money and having met with a great many failures. However, I believe the question is of sufficient importance to justify the government going into it in order to ascertain whether or not oyster culture can be made a success.

We have in my constituency the Carraquet oyster beds which are the most important in the Maritime provinces, perhaps with the exception of the Malpeque in quality and the Bouteauche in quantity. The old world famed St. Simon oyster has the same fate as the Malpeque oyster, being almost extinct. However, the fishermen of Carraquet gave up oyster fishing because they could not get any oysters from those beds and the fishermen found there were oysters on those beds and they went fishing for them. I think the Minister of oysters were marketed. Two years ago 800 barrels were fished and last year they increased their output to some 1,300 barrels, which goes to show that the Carraquet oyster bed would be very profitable. I should like to know if the Department of Marine and Fisheries has made any endeavors to induce Prince Edward Island to go into the industry, and if so what was the intention of the department with regard to the matter.

So far as the lobster season is concerned, I doubt very much if the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has a great deal of inconvenience when one section of the coast has a spring season and the other section a fall season. If it were possible to give a fall season to the spring section of New Brunswick, well as the section south of Chockfish, and in the whole of Prince Edward Island, I believe it would simplify matters to a great extent, and would benefit the fishing industry. In my constituency fishermen have a season starting from the 1st of April, and very often in the latter part of April and the early part of May the coast is still icebound in that section, and therefore the fishermen lose part of their season. Last year a great part of the season was lost on account of weather conditions. This year the fishermen in Glouce Bay are doing well, but I doubt if they will favour changing the season for a fall season. As these matters should be the subject of very serious investigation and inquiry, and should not be dealt with without proper consideration, I think they should be very carefully gone into by the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. DOUCET: My hon. friend (Mr. Rouchaud) must not take too much to heart my remarks about changing the lobster season. I have mentioned his part of the province. I mentioned that section south of Chockfish as far as Bay Verte. I would like to have an answer to my question, and I will state the reason. The delegate who called on the minister in the month of February, 1924, although authorized by the great bulk of the fishermen of that section to present the case to the minister, went back to his constituency; whether he was chloroformed or not I do not know but he never made a report to any one, publicly or otherwise. Again a resolution was adopted by the Marine and Fisheries committee unanimously, and whilst the fishermen in that section wanted to have the fishing season begin on the 6th day of August, and were laying their plans accordingly, yet the department could not accede to their request and made no answer whatsoever. My hon. friend from Prince (Mr. MacLean) told us that Mr. Cowie of the Department of Marine and Fisheries visited his section. I am delighted to know that it was Mr. Cowie who went there, because while I was there I have yet to hear of any notification of Mr. Cowie's visit, in the Maritime Provinces. He was ex-

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representatives and the people, so that they in turn could get in touch with those most directly interested and obtain information on the subject. Whom he interviewed before last a report was made by Dr. Knight of the Biological Board, the fact that he held several meetings in Prince Edward Island; but if he came to the conclusion that the consensus of opinion of the fishermen in that section was unfavorable to the 6th August as the opening date of the season, he must have come in contact with the very few who were opposed to the change. I submit that if a vote were taken of the whole fishing population of that section, you would find that very few dissented from the idea that if the fish were in a proper condition to market—and I very believe they are—they would vote to change the regulation, so that their fishing would not be placed in jeopardy every year as it has been in years past. While the remarks of my hon. friend from Prince and the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Rouchaud) rather diverted discussion to the oyster question, I would again ask the minister, has he seriously considered this proposition, and can he today give a more definite answer to the demand made

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