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## SCHEME TO LEASE OYSTER BEDS

(Continued from page one)

leasing of the live oyster beds. There was not a man, woman or child in Northumberland today who raised a single objection to the leasing of the barren bottoms and in fact he believed that the fishermen were seeing the advantage of leasing the live beds as they would be enabled to form companies for their development. No doubt the government had acted wisely in refraining from touching the live beds at the present time and there certainly could be no valid objection on the part of any oyster fisherman to the leasing of the barren beds. If the oyster fishermen of Northumberland should have taken objection he would be prepared to have taken the responsibility of asking that the bill be passed as he felt that the fishermen would soon appreciate its many advantages.

Mr. Sheridan said that the oyster beds of Kent county were different from those in Northumberland. There were no barren beds in the bays of the County of Kent because all beds produced more or less oysters. On what were called the dead beds which would cost too much money to fit for oyster planting, there were great quantities of loads being taken away annually.

The section was allowed to stand for the present.

Hon. Mr. Flemming moved to amend section 7 of part 1 of the bill to provide that the rules and regulations as would be necessary to carry this section into effect should be published in the Royal Gazette for at least thirty days, before becoming effective, so that if there were any reasons why the regulations should be changed, there would be an opportunity to have them presented.

Mr. Stewart (Northumberland) said that it might be unwise to give the riparian owner too much preference. The people living in the same territory should stand on an equal footing with the riparian owner after the latter had selected his portion.

Mr. Carter thought that provision should be made in section 5 to reinvest the properties in the crown after the lease of the individual lessee had expired.

Mr. Baxter said that it was very clear that the property must revert to the province the moment the lease to the individual owner came to an end.

MR. MAHONEY'S VIEWS

Mr. Mahoney said that he and his colleagues from Westmorland were probably more interested in this bill than any other members of the house due to the fact that part 2 of the bill applied to Cape Tormentine and Tidnish River in Westmorland County and in the immediate vicinity where he himself resided. He was here to protect the people living along that shore, which was about twenty-five miles long and covered an area of 30,000 acres on the New Brunswick shore. He felt that it would be giving too much of this company to grant them the sole right to this territory. He did not wish that he should be considered as opposing the bill, as he was in favor of the principle. He was glad to see the Canadian Oyster Co. coming to the province and adding to the Provincial finances by way of royalties, but at the same time he did not think the company should have the right to the monopoly of the whole shore. Hon. members from Westmorland left that the company would be justified in taking ten miles of the shore, or 10,000 acres. They felt sure that no single company could cultivate 30,000 acres successfully, and were of the opinion that the people's rights should be protected in this matter. The members from Westmorland were willing to give this company all rights that were fair and reasonable, and he considered it wise to amend the first section of part 2 of the bill to provide that the government would have right to dispose of part of the rights referred to.

Hon. Mr. Flemming said that he did not think any harm would come from embodying the suggestion of his hon. friend in the bill. The matter was one that must of necessity be dealt with between the Canadian Oyster Co. and the government. He could quite understand and applaud the spirit in which his hon. friend spoke with regard to the people residing in that district, but the question was a concrete business proposition, where the government proposed to do specific things for a certain company and where in return that company binds itself to do certain things. The barren beds in the waters described did not at the present time produce any oysters, the rights of the residents as regard these beds were not worth anything.

He had the fullest sympathy with the oyster fishermen, and that was why the government had decided not to lease the live oyster beds. He did not want to take any right now enjoyed by the fishermen away from them, but he believed as the present proposition affected only barren bottoms, which at the present time were wholly unproductive, that there could be no reasonable objection to the proposition.

The suggested amendment of his

hon. friend he felt would not injure the bill, and furthermore before the lease was entered into between the Government and the company, he could assure his hon. friends from Westmorland that the Government would be very glad to call them in and secure their approval.

MR. BLACK OPPOSED

Mr. Black said he was very much interested in the discussion of this bill. He was entirely in sympathy with the leasing of certain portions of barren bottoms, but he believed it a bad policy on the part of the province to give away the full amount of this territory. The company asked for about 30,000 acres, and the reason they advanced for requiring such a large area was that the spawn would float with the tide to the adjacent territory. If that principle were followed, the spawn would be carried an indefinite distance, and where would the dividing line be made. He did not think there was anything very substantial on that line of argument. The company under the agreement which it was proposed to enter into with the Government, agreed to prepare, cultivate and make productive not less than 100 acres per year for seven years, and if they continued at that rate it would take them 300 years to cultivate the whole shore.

Dr. Price said that he was strongly in favor of the bill which he believed was good legislation on the part of the Government, who he felt were acting wisely in this matter. When the Canadian Oyster Company's representative, Mr. Moseley, first came to this province, he went to Buctouche in the County of Kent, and found that the oyster beds there were not barren, but were live bearing beds, and then it was that he went to Bay Verte where he found barren beds suitable for the operation which his company proposed to carry on. The cultivation of oysters in the barren beds at Bay Verte instead of interfering with the ordinary fishing rights there, would on the other hand provide food for the fish and should thus prove of advantage to the fishermen. He commended the principle of the bill and promised to support it.

Consideration of part 2 of the bill was then taken up and upon suggestion of Mr. Stewart (Northumberland) following upon the attention of the House having been drawn to the matter by Mr. Mahoney, the first section of the preamble was made to read that the Canadian Oyster Co. had made application for a lease of certain "barren bottoms in Bay Verte" instead of "on the foreshore". Mr. Tilley said that the House should know of the standing of any company before it was granted such concessions as proposed in the bill. He asked if the Canadian Oyster Co. really was a company duly incorporated by the parliament of Canada, as set forth in the bill.

Mr. Carter asked as to the advisability of placing a provision in the bill to provide for a time limit in connection with the commencement of operations.

Hon. Mr. Flemming said that it was a matter for the government to deal with in seeing that the Canadian Oyster Co. was a company of good standing. He assured the House that the government would safeguard the interests of the province in every way.

Mr. Black again raised the question of the extent of area control of which it was proposed to give to the company.

Hon. Mr. Flemming said that he was prepared to promise the hon. member from Westmorland, in whose district the areas under consideration were situated, would have the lease which would be made with the company placed before them so that the matter could be mutually agreed upon before the lease was executed.

The committee reported progress. The House adjourned at 6 p. m. until Monday afternoon.

## UNIVERSAL TRAINING

(Continued from page one)

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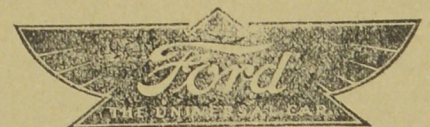
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