

FISHING INDUSTRY AT MERCY OF TRUST

Chicago Fixes Price of Catch in Ontario

CHARGE OF MR. SINCLAIR

Serious Situation Due to Gov- ernment Apathy

**Report of Fish and Game Commis-
sioner Brings Repudiation From
Government Member—Hon. J. O.
Reaume Attempts Defence.**

The Legislative diet in Queen's Park yesterday was fish. As all the members did not observe fast days it was appropriate that some at least should abstain from common Budget discourses and enrich themselves upon fish. It was timely, too, for the last week in Lent. But it was a diet of words, not of fins. When the Government proposed to move the House into Committee of Supply Mr. W. E. N. Sinclair (South Ontario), by way of amendment, discussed the depletion of the Provincial fisheries owing to their exploitation by the Chicago "fish trust," and the lack of enforcement of the fishery regulations as disclosed in the report of Mr. Kelly

Evans, Fish and Game Commissioner of 1911, and in failing to take any action on the report of the Commission the Government had proven itself indifferent to the best interests of the people of the Province.

Report is Worthless.

It was the usual want of confidence motion, but provided the members of the Opposition with an opportunity to criticize the lax administration of the Game and Fisheries Branch of the Department of Public Works. The debate also disclosed the fact that the Government had little faith in Mr. Evans' report, for Hon. J. O. Reaume barely referred to it during the course of his remarks, and Mr. R. R. Gamey (Manitoulin) said the report was commercially impracticable, and Mr. Evans did not understand the first principles of handling the fishing industry of the Province.

The debate continued until six o'clock, when it was adjourned and the evening session was taken up in considering Government bills.

In Grip of Fish Trust.

Mr. Sinclair commenced by quoting from Mr. Evans' report, which showed that the fishing industry of the Province was in the grip of the United States fish trust. "The fishermen of Ontario are practically compelled to sell their catch to the American fish trust at prices dictated by that trust," he said. It was time for the Government to wake up. The report was presented on March 7, 1911; a month ago the Minister of Public Works informed the House that no action had been taken to carry out its recommendations.

In view of the increasing cost of living steps should be taken, it was said, that would make for a larger supply of fish for the people of Ontario. He charged that every game warden and overseer employed by the Government was a politician first and an official last. "These fellows are apparently more anxious about the welfare of suckers on land than suckers in the sea. (Laughter.) He suggested that fish and game might be placed in the hands of a Provincial Commission.