

Control Board Planned For Great Lakes Fishing

Faced with serious depletion of commercial fishing in the Great Lakes, the United States and Canadian Governments, with those of eight States and of Ontario, soon will appoint a permanent commis-

sion to investigate and control such fishing. This was intimated by Ontario Minister of Game and Fisheries G. H. Dunbar, before the annual meeting of the Legislature's fish and game committee. Should the Governments concerned agree, they will be accepting and implementing the recommendations of a fact-finding commission which has for some years been taking evidence at Great Lakes fishing points.

According to Mr. Dunbar, "matters of uniformity of legislation will be approached and the depletion of fish in some waters will be given thorough consideration."

Uniformity of legislation has long been urged. For instance, the bass season on the New York side of the St. Lawrence River opens June 15. To meet this, Ontario has also opened the season on that date, although it is recognized this is at least two weeks earlier than is required for a period permitting the bass to complete spawning.

The Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers urged the Government give publicity to those who have broken game and fish laws by publishing the names of these individuals, together with details of their offenses, in the annual report of the Fish and Game Department.

No rod license, as urged by the Toronto Anglers' and Hunters' Association, will be imposed, Mr. Dunbar told W. L. Miller (Lib., Algoma-Manitoulin) in reply to a question. The Toronto organization had urged a license of \$1, with proceeds to go direct to the propagation and conservation of game fishing.

Will Investigate Hepburn's Charge Against Doucett

Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature will be called to investigate a charge made by Liberal House Leader M. F. Hepburn yesterday that Highways Minister George Doucett caused a letter to be sent to a London gasoline company instructing the firm to furnish a bond and deposit it with an insurance company with which the Minister had been associated in business.

Mr. Doucett denied authorizing the letter which went out over the signature of J. H. Robinson, chief inspector of gasoline tax, and asserted that as soon as he learned of this letter he immediately sent out another one cancelling the contents of the first communication. He welcomed a full investigation into the matter.

Mr. Hepburn produced a copy of a letter sent to McManus Petroleum, Ltd., London, Ont., in which the chief inspector said arrangements had been made that all collectors' bonds be handled through one source, A. E. Wilson Co., Ltd., Lumsden Building, Toronto.

"This is the firm with which the Minister of Highways was connected," said Mr. Hepburn.

What Minister Expected

"This is just about what I would expect from the member for Elgin," said Mr. Doucett. "I had nothing to do with the letter he has read. Let the member read the other letter that goes with it if he wants to be fair. The member for Elgin some time ago interceded with me to obtain special privileges for this company, which I refused. He now brings this matter up.

"I have done business with this company but I have never been a part of it," said Mr. Doucett. "As soon as I heard of the letter sent out by Mr. Robinson, I sent out another cancelling it. Does the member know of this cancelling letter?"

"Yes, probably after the Minister was caught," replied Mr. Hepburn.

There were murmurs of protest from Government members at this remark.

"If any other member had made such a statement I would immediately ask to have it withdrawn," said Premier Drew. "But seeing who made it, I won't bother."

Stake His Seat On It

"I'll stake my seat on it," said Mr. Hepburn. "I hope the Minister of Highways will do the same."

Opposition Leader E. B. Jolliffe said he believed there should be an investigation into the whole matter, and Mr. Doucett said he would welcome an inquiry.