

vincial government is practically powerless to stop exportation. It is a matter for this government to take up and it will have to deal with it quickly if our forests are to be saved for posterity.

I pass on to the fishing industry. What is there in this budget likely to be of any great assistance or benefit to the fishermen of the province of Nova Scotia? I realize, Sir, that a royal commission was appointed to investigate the fisheries of that province. May I remind the house and hon. gentleman opposite why that commission was appointed? It was appointed because open discontent was manifested and open hardship had occurred in the eastern part of Nova Scotia, in the town of Canso, in the constituency of the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Duff). So acute was the situation that this government deemed it advisable to appoint a commission without the authorization of parliament for expenditure involved. I agree that the need was urgent, but political expediency dictated the sittings which that commission was to hold. It held sittings not only in practically every fishing village and hamlet of importance in the province of Nova Scotia, but also in New Brunswick and extended into Quebec, which was not originally contemplated. The reports of the government's own officials, including Mr. Ward Fisher, superintendent of the eastern division, for several years had drawn its attention to the conditions which existed, but it was not until open discontent was displayed and actual hardship was experienced that the royal commission was appointed. Be that as it may, the fishermen of Nova Scotia knew the need to be urgent, and action by the government was expected early this session. What has happened? As the result of the itinerary being mapped out by politicians and not by the commission itself the report is only now in course of preparation. It may be received in time for consideration by parliament during the present session. As to that I do not know, but I do know this: Had that report been available, and had the commissioners given full effect to the evidence submitted to them there would have been some proposals before parliament worthy of the consideration of the Finance minister and calling for notice in the budget. As a result of the delay which has occurred the proposals of the commission, whatever they may be, will have to wait at least one year more for fulfilment. As to the fishing industry I am reminded to some extent of the words of the Postmaster General, who I regret is not in his seat, when he spoke in this house on the 8th of February. He sought to leave with the house and the

[Mr. Ernst.]

country the impression that Conservatives from the maritime provinces were disgruntled and had no real grievance, and he allied himself with the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister who talked glibly of prosperity in this country. I wish he would come down with me to the shores of Nova Scotia and see conditions as they there exist. We have there a great fishing industry with resources practically inexhaustible and we have a people who are adapted to that industry; yet I can take him to villages where the average earnings last year per man were less than \$200, and those men are heads of families. Those are not isolated villages. I can take him to whole stretches of the coast line where the average earnings per man were less than \$300 per annum, I can point out to him reports of this government that since 1914 ten thousand men have been lost to this industry. I can show him whole villages where house after house has the windows boarded up and the occupants have gone to the United States, to Gloucester and Boston. Yet the hon. member, along with other members of the government, talks glibly of prosperity. For one thing I thank God, and that is that I cannot talk glibly of prosperity while my people are enduring hardships. The industry is one which is crying for bread, one which requires governmental direction and policy, if any industry ever did so.

Mr. HANSON: The government gave them a royal commission.

Mr. ERNST: That is not an end; it is only a means to an end. What has the industry got in this budget? Let us examine the proposals one by one. Of the items which are reclassified in the schedule filed by the Minister of Finance, there are six which directly affect the fishing industry. The first item is oakum, which enters into the caulking of boats and of ships. This was duty free before and it is free now. The second item is sails for boats and vessels and the duty on those is absolutely unchanged. The third item is sail twine and in this there is a reclassification. The duty under the British preference is lowered by some five per cent, and the duty under the general tariff is raised by some five per cent. The fourth item is oil clothing, in which I believe there is a general reduction of five per cent under the British preference and the intermediate tariff. A peculiar feature about that is that the larger portion of the oilclothing used by fishermen in Nova Scotia at least, is manufactured in that province, and if there is any cut in price, it will affect an industry which that province is struggling to maintain. The fifth item is aluminum