

Supply—Fisheries

ahead all the time from year to year because it provides a great deal of employment. At the peak of the season 2,000 of our people are employed in this industry. Normally there are 600 people working the year round; but at the peak of the season 2,000 people are employed. Six million dollars are being paid out, and money is being brought into this country from all over the world. This industry has to be considered. People should think about it; the fisheries department should think about it and some research should be carried out for this industry.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have a little something to say about draggers. I have heard a lot of talk about monopolies in farming, and syndicates and how the syndicates were going to promote monopolies, and all that sort of thing. I represent a constituency that is concerned with farming. If the government wanted to lend me money to start farming, I would say no; I would keep away from it. I do not want any money for farming. We lost \$150,000 during the last 15 years so we do not want any money for farming.

I have heard it said about fishing that we have a monopoly, and a company goes out in the springtime and catches all the fish. We cannot sell this product in Canada because there is not a sufficient market. If we produce 15 million or 20 million pounds of fish there is no market for that amount and we have to sell it to the United States. The purchasers there say we must sign a contract for 500,000 pounds of this, and 500,000 pounds of that. They tell us that we should give up using small draggers in the bay of Fundy and obtain large steel draggers, and go down as far as Georges bank, because we will be able to bring in between 100,000 pounds and 300,000 pounds. As a result of this suggestion we obtained large steel draggers, went out in the bay of Fundy and caught a great deal of fish, but by the time we sold them, considering that they had to be processed, we only had about 30 per cent left. The fish are gutted at sea and the livers and everything is thrown away, and all we have left are the clippings. I do not think the large monopolies are making any money in this industry, but rather that the small operator is making money. When we were small and used the small draggers in the bay of Fundy we were making money. I think in respect of every pound of fish we sell this year we will lose money.

An hon. Member: That is the Liberal government for you.

Mr. McLean (Charlotte): I assure you that we are losing money.

An hon. Member: I do not believe you.

Mr. McLean (Charlotte): You should have a look at our balance sheets if you do not believe me. You do not know anything about the fishing business or you would not question my statement, but would pat me on the back and state that I am right.

I have nothing more to say, Mr. Chairman, except to repeat that more research should be done in respect of this industry.

When a producer buys a fish in the raw he may pay five cents per pound for it, but when you buy the same type of fish at the market it likely will cost 40 cents per pound. To understand this situation you must realize that only 30 per cent of the raw fish is marketable. People are inclined to suggest that the monopolies are making a great deal of money because they have to pay 40 cents a pound for fish at the market. They should keep in mind that the same fish is sold in the raw for perhaps four or five cents a pound. I bring this information to your attention so that when you go to the store and have to pay that much for fish you will not complain because you will be aware of the situation, and realize that the fisherman is not making a lot of money.

At this time there is a very serious scarcity of fish and I do not believe the processors are going to make any money this year. We must have more research in respect of the sardine industry. You might suggest that this is a very lowly industry, but I point out that it amounts to \$6 million in my county alone, and the products are sold all over the world. One can go to any foreign country in the world and mention the word "sardine" and the people there will understand what you are talking about, whereas you may mention wheat, or any of a variety of foodstuffs or products and the people are just as likely not to know what you mean. I repeat that we must have more research in respect of this industry, not that it will mean anything to me personally, but it will mean a great deal to a future generation in my county in the province of New Brunswick. I suggest that the fisheries department should pay more attention to this particular fishery.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, I am sure we have all listened with a great deal of interest to the hon. member for Charlotte who has given us some information about this very important sardine industry, and has referred to the need for research in respect of the