

construction of boats of the dragger type. Twenty-two such vessels now operate from Gloucester county with marked success. The Fishery Research Board has been enlarged. In each of the Maritime Provinces a department or section of a department of fisheries has been set up to co-operate with the federal department in assisting the fishermen.

Now this is, perhaps, an incomplete list of the steps taken in recent years for the betterment of the fishery. I think it has been very fortunate for the industry that the same political party continued in office over a goodly period of years, thus giving officials in charge an opportunity to gradually develop and maintain a continuity of policy and action which could not have obtained if governments of different political colour had followed each other in office, with varying policies concerning the fisheries, and with, perhaps, entirely different views concerning the importance of this primary food-producing industry.

As a consequence of what has taken place, the picture of the fishery today has substantially improved over what it was thirteen years ago. However, much yet remains to be done to bring it to the level which exists in other fish-producing countries; and it is the filling in of this gap and the co-ordination of all the department's activities which, no doubt the minister had in mind when he outlined the recently-developed policy of his department.

In bringing my remarks to a close, I should like to give honourable senators a summary of the minister's statement. As a preface to it he appropriately announced that during the eighteen months he had been in office he, accompanied by some of his departmental staff, had visited every province in Canada to discuss fisheries, prospects, and betterment, with provincial government officials, with fishermen themselves, with processors, wholesalers, cold storage and warehouse interests. These visits were for the definite purpose of gathering first-hand information for a composite picture of the whole industry to be presented to the government and to parliament. In his statement he reviewed the situation thoroughly, put his finger on all the weak points, and outlined what he termed "the framework for fishery development", which is aimed at removing all hindrances to expansion.

Briefly, his program is divided into two parts: phase one, expansion of North American and overseas markets; phase two, development of backward areas of the industry.

The first part of the program aims at producing quality as the essential factor in expansion of markets. To that end there

will be three services, as follows: First, the fish inspection service will be enlarged; it will extend from sea to table—in boats, in plants, in freezers, in the selling trade, in kitchens of hotels, restaurants and homes; second, technical services will provide fishermen, small plants, and the wholesale and retail distributors of fish with technical help for the improvement of their individual operations; third, a consumer service branch will supply education to the consumer by giving demonstrations and lectures on fish cooking to women's groups and schools, thus encouraging more Canadians to eat more fish. The consumer will be shown how to buy fish, what to buy, how to cook, and how to serve fish.

Phase 2 announces steps to help the east coast fishing industry to modernize catching operations at lower costs by issuing trawler licences more frequently and increasing the number of dragger boats, so as to multiply the catch and help fishermen meet the growing market demands for fresh and frozen fish.

The Minister gave new hope to the fishermen in the following words:

In the backward areas, there is special need for the establishment of technical and demonstration services to fishermen and small plants, particularly in Newfoundland and the Maritimes. These services are as necessary to the fisheries as experimental farms and demonstration stations are to agriculture. We plan accordingly to use the new technical services division to demonstrate to each of the main fishing areas the best that is known on fishing and fish-handling methods. We propose also to develop an intelligence service to fishermen, one of the most important functions of which will be to advise on the whereabouts of fish schools during various seasons.

This is the first time in the history of fisheries in Canada that a minister of this department has stood up in his place in parliament and made a definite, all-embracing statement on policy concerning the much needed development of fisheries through the department. I consider it a red-letter day in the history of Canadian fisheries.

Those of us who come from Newfoundland and the Maritimes, where most of the undeveloped areas exist, will realize what such a program means to the fishery. I feel confident that the leadership given by the minister will go far towards assuring to his department and to the fishing industry the position of importance which belongs to them in the economy of Canada.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Haig the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.