

Supply—Fisheries

now just entering lake Superior. The commercial fisheries in Ontario are under the control of the Ontario government. They have been very anxious that we help.

We approached the United States government with the thought that we would have another international treaty for the purpose of getting rid of the lamprey and building up these fisheries as we have done on the two coasts. Unfortunately, there was jurisdictional trouble in the United States because the fisheries there are primarily under state control. I think there are seven different states along the lakes, there. Apparently some one or more of the states were not too willing to surrender jurisdiction to the United States federal government. Whatever the situation was we could not sign a treaty, but the federal government here with Ontario and the government in Washington have undertaken a parallel program, the sort of thing we carry out together, on a program of lamprey control through scientific research.

Our scientists think that it is not just the lamprey, but that it is the introduction of a great number of less valuable fish in the lakes, which have taken food away from the valuable whitefish, lake trout and pickerel. In this program the government of Ontario has joined with us and I am pleased to say that we have had the most pleasant relations with the fisheries branch of that province. We have a joint vote of \$30,000 to begin a scientific study of the fish population in the lakes.

In the matter of lamprey control, we are doing the work ourselves. We have \$150,000 in the estimates this year for the commencement of lamprey control at the entrance of lake Superior, where they are just beginning to show up. I am hopeful that in the next year or two the program carried out on both sides will convince everyone of the need for a similar international treaty to restore this great fishery. It is a great fishery, not only because of the value of the fish, but because it is one of the few fisheries in the world immediately adjacent to a high concentration of population. The market is right there. It is the heaviest concentration of population on the continent—which makes it all the more important for them and for us that we arrange an international treaty which will bring back these fisheries.

Mr. Chairman, this short review is now ended.

Mr. Pearkes: Mr. Chairman, I should like to thank the minister for the most interesting review he has given of the work of his department. I am sure the committee will feel it was well worth while listening to him while he made his report. I am glad I

asked him to do so, rather than bring it out in a piecemeal fashion in reply to various questions. Actually, I think time has been saved, because many of the points I had intended to raise have now been answered.

I am sure all hon. members who represent seaboard constituencies will be delighted to hear of the improved conditions in the industry. A year ago the minister had to report that the industry was in a depressed condition. Everybody knew that; we all had representations made to us. Now, partly through the efforts of the industry itself, and partly because of the assistance given by the minister and his department, he has been enabled today to report improved conditions.

I should like to say a few words regarding the industry on the Pacific coast. I shall not touch the Atlantic coast, because I have not had the opportunity of visiting the fisheries there recently. My remarks will not be in the form of criticism of the policy followed by the department, but rather to urge a more concentrated and a greater effort on some of the endeavours the department is now taking in order to solve the problems facing us in connection with our west coast fisheries.

I think those problems can be summarized under three main headings. The first is that of conservation, the second is that of the methods of taking the fish out of the ocean, and the third is that of marketing. The minister has described fully some of the research work that has been carried out. This has been going on over a number of years, and has been concentrated mainly—and I say “mainly” because there is other work going on as well—on our salmon run, our halibut and our herring fisheries.

As a result of those investigations there have been a number of international agreements. Government regulations have been laid down to prevent the depletion of our fisheries. As the minister has said, had it not been for the international salmon commission, our sockeye run might actually have been wiped out some years ago. A great deal of time has been spent in the study of the habits of this species of salmon, with results extremely beneficial to the industry.

The desirability of a similar commission being set up with reference to the pink variety of salmon has now become evident. I am glad the minister has made reference to this point, and I am going to urge him to proceed with the utmost vigour toward the completion of whatever steps have been taken to ensure the completion of some agreement with the United States for the preservation of the pink salmon run. Because if that is not done, the pink salmon will be in exactly the same position as were the sockeye salmon a few years ago.