

want to say anything against what the minister is doing. I hope it will be a success and that everything possible will be done for the fishermen of the maritime provinces. These men are in a worse plight than the western wheat growers of whom we have heard so much in this house. I have not heard any member from the maritime provinces criticize the spending of one dollar in western Canada to assist the wheat growers. We realize that that is necessary to a certain extent, but I believe that if an estimate could be made it would be found that for every dollar per capita which has been spent to assist farming or other industries in the maritime provinces, at least five or ten dollars have been spent in western Canada. Considerable assistance has been given to other parts of Canada. Just the other day we passed a bill to provide a bonus for cheese producers. This bonus is not going to bring one cent to the maritime provinces; we will benefit in no way from it. If any assistance is to be given to this industry in our three maritime provinces, I certainly wish it well and hope it will be a success, because these men are in great need of assistance.

Mr. GREEN: Will there be a representative of the Pacific coast on this salt fish board? While our production of salt fish is small as compared to the production on the east coast, I do not think this board will be of much use to the fishermen of the Pacific coast if they are not represented.

Mr. MICHAUD: It is not the intention of the government to make this board exclusive in any way. It is not intended to eliminate the possibility of extending the operations of the board to the Pacific coast. As my hon. friend has said, the production of salt fish on the Pacific coast is quite small; for the last five years its value has hardly exceeded \$500,000 annually, as compared with a value of \$16,000,000 for the fresh fish industry. On the Atlantic coast, the value of the salt fish production is about fifty per cent of the value of the fresh fish production.

Mr. GREEN: What is the value on the Atlantic coast?

Mr. MICHAUD: The average annual production is valued at a little over \$3,000,000, but it used to be \$8,000,000. I cannot assure my hon. friend that there will be a representative of the Pacific coast on the board, but it is not intended to exclude the Pacific coast from the operations of the bill. As the resolution indicates, it will be possible to constitute advisory boards. Whether British

Columbia is represented on the board or on the advisory board for that district, it will receive consideration just the same as any other part of the country.

Mr. GREEN: Is it intended that the act shall apply to the Pacific coast?

Mr. MICHAUD: The salt fish of the Pacific coast can come under the act; it is not intended to exclude it.

Mr. GREEN: I understood the minister to say that our production on the Pacific coast is about half a million and on the Atlantic coast about three million.

Mr. MICHAUD: About three and a half.

Mr. GREEN: There is not such a great difference, and I think the production on the Pacific coast could easily be increased. Would it not be fair that we should have at least one member on the board? Otherwise it will be of practically no use to us.

Mr. MICHAUD: There is nothing in the bill to exclude British Columbia or to prevent it from being represented. There is nothing definite about it, either.

Mr. GREEN: How many members are there to be on the board?

Mr. MICHAUD: Three.

Mr. GREEN: The minister must know from where they will be chosen? Are they all to come from the maritimes?

Mr. MICHAUD: No, I do not know.

Mr. MacNEIL: To what extent is it intended to help the salt fisheries on the Pacific coast? There was an attempt to develop the dry salt industry there, and in 1936 the total production of dry salted salmon went to 153,493 hundredweight and the production of dry salted herring went as high as 383,337 hundredweight, but in the subsequent year there was a serious drop. Heretofore any aid extended to fishermen has gone solely to fishermen on the Atlantic coast. Departmental reports, for example, indicate that rehabilitation loans have been extended to fishermen on the Atlantic coast, but in no case to fishermen on the Pacific coast because British Columbia did not come into the agreement. Bounties are also given to Atlantic coast fishermen but not to fishermen on the Pacific coast. Is the aid to be provided under this legislation dependent upon a co-operative agreement with the British Columbia government?

Mr. MICHAUD: No.