

*The Address—Mr. Cannon*

the new province that has now joined us. In their early history they were visited by some of the greatest explorers of the North American continent—by Jacques Cartier in 1534 and again in 1608 by Samuel de Champlain who gave to Havre Aubert the name it still bears. At that time they were not inhabited. The first concession was made to a Mr. Francois Daublet in 1663. They were again conceded in 1719 to Lecompte de St. Pierre. During that period they were temporarily inhabited, and in 1763 there were ten families on the islands. By 1798 this number had increased to one hundred families, and now I am proud to say there are about twelve thousand people living on the Magdalen islands.

There are six inhabited islands in all, five of which are linked by sand bars. On some of the sand bars we have roads, and one may pass on the other sand bars at low tide; therefore the main islands, including Amherst island, Grindstone island, Alright island, Coffin island and Grosse isle, are connected; Entry island is separate. The principal industry is fishing, in which about eighty-five per cent of the inhabitants engage, and which lasts from May until October.

Up until a few years ago walrus were caught in quantity off these islands, but unfortunately this is no longer the case. They have been so depleted, they cannot be exploited on a commercial scale. The fishing industry also comprises lobster, mackerel, cod, and other species. The lobster fishing is important during the summer months. A considerable trade with the United States has been built up through the shipment of live lobster by air to Maine. Those that are not shipped are canned. These canning factories provide employment for a large number of the inhabitants of the island.

For about two weeks during the early part of June, mackerel are caught. They are known as the spring mackerel and are caught in nets. Later on in July there is another mackerel catch. These fish are caught on lines which are set out by the fishermen. Cod is the main catch. For a few months this fishing industry is the main source of income for the men. The fishermen find it difficult, however, as it is not a sufficient income for them to live on for the entire year. They are far from being well off.

The land on the islands, on the other hand, is really quite fertile. It is similar to that in Prince Edward Island. I believe if agriculture were encouraged as a second source of income for the islanders it would help improve their economic position. It is my intention to do what I can to encourage agriculture.

These islands are very beautiful. I picture them now as they were when I first saw them, lying in the gulf of St. Lawrence under a June sun. The red cliffs rising from the blue waters of the gulf were topped with a green carpet, and all three colours blended beautifully. I shall never forget that picture. I had never been to the islands before it was my honour to run as a member, and I have fallen in love with them. I am proud to represent them in this house.

One of the many difficulties facing the fishermen is the fact that they have to use relatively small boats. This restricts the area in which they can fish. It would be a great advantage to them if they could use the larger sailing vessels such as are used off the coast of New Brunswick. The federal government passed an order in council, P.C. 1919, which provided for subsidies to aid fishermen in constructing these larger vessels. The use of the larger vessels enables the fishermen to remain out several days at a time and thus make larger catches. I have received several inquiries from fishermen as to how application is made for these subsidies. After studying the order in council, I find it provides for loans to be made to fishermen through the fishermen's loan boards. These loan boards have to be set up by the provincial legislature. This has not been done in my province, but it has been done in several other provinces. I suggest it would be an excellent thing if my own province undertook to pass the legislation. The establishment of such a board would enable the fishermen to benefit from these subsidies which the federal government is willing to provide.

While I am dealing with this subject, may I say that a few years ago the control of fisheries was transferred from the federal government to the province of Quebec. Several fishermen in my county have complained about this, since they believe they received better treatment from the federal government. I suggest it might not be inappropriate to look into the matter with a view to ascertaining whether or not it would be proper to return the control of fisheries to the federal government. In many respects, the federal government is better equipped to take care of the needs of the fishermen, particularly those engaged in deep-sea fishing, as is the case around the Magdalen islands.

The fishermen of the Magdalen islands are organized into co-operative associations. These co-operatives are often short of funds. They own ships which ply between the islands and the maritime provinces and bring goods and merchandise to the islands not brought by other shipping lines. I have received