

that the assistance given to any exporter during any marketing season shall not exceed in value twenty-five per centum of the value as estimated or found by the Board at the point and time of export of the fish in respect of which such assistance is given.

Will anyone tell me how this clause can apply to the original producer? The original producer never has fish at the point and time of export; therefore he can never, under any circumstances, get the bonus direct.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Unless the board pays the agent of the fisherman.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The board has no power to pay it to anybody but the exporter. And who is to value the fish at the point and time of export? The fisherman is out. The answer is complete; it is written right in the terms of the Bill. Under those terms the fisherman has to depend on the exporter.

The honourable leader of the Government asks, "Why do you not word that amendment specifically?" I can do it, but it would take a little time. Give the Bill to the committee, and if the Minister cannot suggest the wording I will undertake to do it for him. In the strongest way possible I urge the Minister from Nova Scotia, whom I know very well, and in whose ability I have a great deal of confidence, to come back and insert clauses to provide that the object of the regulations and conditions attached to the payment shall be the payment of the money to the fisherman-producer. The Minister could do that; nobody could do it better. Then the principle and purpose of the measure would be expressed in it for the direction and guidance of the board. As the Bill is now, the board need not be guided by that purpose at all. I can easily see the possibility that under this Bill not a single fisherman will benefit to the extent of one cent. He may benefit, but there is no provision that he must. I apprehend, and I confidently state, that unless the Bill is amended the great benefit of the \$800,000 voted will go to the merchandiser.

All we ask is that the Bill be amended to meet these three objections. Surely they are reasonable. Surely the Bill will be far better administered if what is now proposed is embodied in it. I plead with the leader of the Government to permit the Bill to be returned to the committee, and I promise there shall be no obstructive delay whatever.

I have had no consultation with anybody about this, unless the receipt of telegrams can be called consultation.

I can hardly sit down without making reference to one incident in this morning's evidence. To me it was most amusing.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

Yesterday I received from the Fisheries Committee of the Lunenburg Board of Trade a telegram protesting in the most determined language against this Bill, saying that while its intent was to help the industry it was their considered opinion that in its present form it would really be detrimental to the fishermen and disastrous to the general fish export trade. Honourable members were in receipt of telegrams from the Halifax Board of Trade. I do not know that they were exactly the same as the Lunenburg telegram, but they protested against the Bill and declared its terms had not been referred to those persons most directly interested. The Halifax telegrams also conveyed the information that a man was being sent here to voice a protest against the measure. The man arrived this morning—Mr. Fletcher Smith—and became a witness before the committee. His first sentence was an announcement that, like Saul of Tarsus, he had seen the light while on the way and now he was in favour of the Bill. I asked him just what it was that had brought about this sudden conversion. Will honourable members really accept my word when I tell them that he called attention to section 8, which provides that with the approval of the Governor in Council the Salt Fish Board may appoint advisory committees. He said: "I made inquiries and I have found that even though such advisory committees are appointed, the board will still be able to ask other people for advice. Having found that out, I have come to the conclusion that the Bill would not be disastrous at all."

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: He gave another reason.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I made fun of that first statement of his, and he saw what a ridiculous thing it was to address to any person's intelligence. Then he said, "Well, we were not satisfied with the provision in section 6 that the assistance given to any exporter shall not exceed 25 per cent of the value of the fish, but now we are convinced that while that may not be enough, it will not do harm." The inference is that before he got here he had feared assistance to the extent of 25 per cent of the value of the fish would be harmful. Is that explanation any less ridiculous than the other?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: He said it had been thought the 25 per cent would be insufficient.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: And he told us that not only was Halifax now fully satisfied with the Bill, but he was confident Lunenburg was too, although telegrams received