

*Supply—Fisheries*

the responsibility of my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce. We are watching this situation carefully, and any constructive suggestion such as that put forward by the hon. member is appreciated and will be followed up closely to see whether some benefit might accrue.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Will the minister take kindly to my suggestion that he urge upon his colleagues the idea of a parliamentary mission.

**Mr. MacLean:** It strikes me as a suggestion that might have considerable merit. The hon. member for Nanaimo brought up the question of a bounty on dogfish and sea lions and I would say with regard to the latter question that a plan is now being formulated to kill a large number of these sea lions during the present season. Also, there is a survey being made both from the air and by boat to estimate more accurately the population of sea lions on the west coast and this is being done with the co-operation of the wild life service of the United States. There was a program some time ago for a bounty on dogfish which did not prove to be very feasible because only a very small percentage of the money voted by parliament was used in this regard.

I made a statement in the house on the orders of the day regarding that problem and the situation has not changed yet but if a feasible plan can be brought forward by the industry generally on the west coast which would reduce the number of dog fish there, we would be very glad to study it carefully with a view to bringing it into effect if it seems to have reasonable possibilities.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, would the minister permit me to ask a question at this time? I did hear some reports to the effect that there was a possibility of a new suggestion being put forward jointly by the industry and the fishermen on the west coast. Has the minister not received any recent representations?

**Mr. MacLean:** No, none whatsoever as yet. No suggestion or proposal has been received recently. The hon. member for New Westminster also raised the question of the Japanese fleet on the high seas fishing salmon which are produced in Canadian waters or waters on this side of the Pacific and wanted me to say something in that regard. A great deal of very necessary research has been carried on recently, during the last two years in particular, in this regard by means of tagging salmon and by other scientific means such as the study of parasites and various other involved methods of determining the origin of salmon which are in mid-Pacific

waters. No evidence has yet been found which would indicate that any Canadian salmon go beyond the traditional line on this side of which the Japanese do not fish. That line is 175 degrees west longitude and no evidence has been uncovered which would indicate that fish of Canadian origin frequent the waters west of that line. There is some evidence, however, that certain numbers of fish—the percentage cannot be accurately estimated—originating in parts of Alaska may go beyond that line for short periods of time at least but on the whole the principle of abstention which the Japanese have accepted under the north Pacific fisheries treaty is of tremendous benefit to the industry on this side of the Pacific because if that abstention principle were abandoned the Japanese, as would be the case with any other nation, would have the right to fish anywhere beyond our territorial waters. I believe I have answered most of the questions that were raised by hon. members.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Would the minister say a word about what the plans are for the Valleyfield experimental plant for the coming season and what his hopes are?

**Mr. MacLean:** I would prefer to do that when we are dealing with the particular item under which this comes.

**Mr. Stick:** May I ask the minister a question arising out of the statement which he has just made, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that the fears held by some of us regarding the United States tariff commission recommending to the government of that country an increase in the duty on our fish are unfounded. He also stated that constant negotiations are taking place at cabinet level between the Canadian and United States governments in this regard. The minister of course knows that repeated attempts have been made by the United States tariff commission to increase this duty. Can the minister assure the committee that there will be no recommendation by the United States tariff commission to increase the duty on Canadian fish?

**Mr. MacLean:** Mr. Chairman, I said that I felt the fears of hon. members in this regard were unfounded. That is our hope. I cannot, of course, speak for the United States government and there is no means of any one in this country guaranteeing what they may or may not do. However, this is a recurring problem, one which has arisen over the years, and we hope that by bringing carefully to the attention of the United States government what the Canadian position is no rash action will be taken by the