

Supply—Fisheries

those types of fish which will command a higher return. I hasten to point out, Mr. Chairman, that I do not believe such goals as I have suggested are going to solve all the difficulties now facing the fishing industry, but they are facets of the problem which cannot be ignored.

If the fishermen are going to continue their operations for longer periods of the year, one of the things which must be done is to provide those facilities which fishermen could not normally be expected to provide for themselves. Here, I am talking about the physical requirements and services such as wharves, breakwaters, community stages and bait depots. I recognize immediately that wharves and breakwaters are the responsibility of the Minister of Public Works and not the responsibility of the Minister of Fisheries. Nevertheless, I think that you cannot dissociate the marine facilities provided by the Department of Public Works from the fishing industry. For many areas of my constituency the men have to use fairly large boats. They have to go a long distance from the shore, well beyond the three mile limit. These boats have to be hauled up in the evening and launched in the morning. Many days' fishing are lost because they are not able to get their boats afloat.

There can be no doubt that, so far as the fishing industry is concerned, protection is needed for the fisherman's gear. On the other hand, community stages and bait depots are part of the programs administered by the Department of Fisheries. I feel that the community stage program has a great deal of merit. The minister informs us that already we have 20 of these stages built in Newfoundland, and that these 20 have demonstrated the advantage which they are to the fishermen. I suggest this advantage should be extended to other areas which are equally deserving. The minister said on May 11 that the program of constructing community stages was virtually complete. I was sorry to hear that because I do not believe this very advantageous program should be confined to the areas which have been served to date. These community stages provide not only a convenience to the fishermen, but they provide more sanitary landings where the fish can be properly cured. They do have a very definite effect on the quality and also the stability of the quality.

However, the minister did intimate that the program might be continued at a slower pace. I would suggest to him that the program should be continued, and continued at an even faster rate, particularly in those areas where economic patterns are changing in such a manner that fishing offers the major opportunity for employment.

I might make similar remarks regarding the bait service. We do need more of these units, and they need to be supplied at a faster rate. In many parts of Newfoundland, fresh bait supplies are not so readily obtained as they were a few years ago. The units being provided by the department offer a source of bait which assists our fishermen in beginning their fishing earlier in the year and remaining at their fishing for longer periods. There are two areas in my constituency which would benefit greatly from the program for community stages and bait depots. They are the areas known as the St. Barbe coast and the Port au Port peninsula. The St. Barbe coast is the western part of the great northern peninsula. The people of this area have for centuries been fishermen and, for a great part of that time, they have had no occupation other than fishing. At the turn of the century there was a great lumber industry developed on the coast. This, in turn, gave way to pulpwood cutting. We have reached the period now where the lumber industry is no longer as important as it was. We have reached the time when pulpwood cutting is no longer carried out to the extent it was. Fishing, therefore, offers perhaps the only opportunity which these men have for making a living. The program for community stages and bait depots, if extended would serve this area well.

Another area which I should like to mention is the Port au Port peninsula. This is a peninsula which juts out into the gulf of St. Lawrence a distance of about 30 miles. Twenty five or thirty years ago, nearly all the people in this area were fishermen. Then, sometime between 1940 and 1942 the United States leased bases in the area. The men left the fishery for work at Harmon air force base. It is understandable that, no matter how long this base remains in Newfoundland, construction in the years that lie ahead is not going to proceed at the pace which it did during the last 20 years. Employment opportunities at Harmon air force base are not as plentiful as they were. The men now have to return to the fishery, and I believe the men will return to the fishery only when they are provided with those facilities which they could not be expected to provide for themselves.

I have here a chart of the Port au Port peninsula. I brought this today particularly because some of the replies I have received to my questions have indicated that there are not enough fishermen in this area. I have here a chart showing the number of fishermen as of February, 1960, in each settlement in the Port au Port peninsula. The total number of fishermen in the area was 403. I believe that this number could be doubled if