

With respect to the item regarding the bait service in Newfoundland. I might say that when Newfoundland came into confederation it was agreed the federal government should take over the bait service which then existed in Newfoundland. During the last year there has been a complete survey of the problems having to do with the bait service in Newfoundland due to changing conditions and changes in the fisheries of Newfoundland. It was becoming evident that the bait service, at least in the opinion of many of the fishermen involved, was not meeting the purpose for which it was set up.

Now, as a result of this survey certain changes are being made, all of which I think will be improvements, and we hope that it will more adequately meet the situation. Actually there is a new depot about to be built at Bonavista. The site for this new depot has been acquired and most of the equipment for the plant has been acquired. Tenders have been advertised and the date for closing the tender is August 12. Mr. Clark may have something to say on this, and Mr. McArthur who directs the bait service in Newfoundland will be in a position to answer questions and give additional information.

Mr. CLARK: I think the minister has explained the bait service in Newfoundland—the historical part of it. But as a result of the survey which we have conducted in the department because of the changing conditions of the fishery itself, it was felt that the bait service was in need of some modernization and perhaps relocation of storage units. I think the committee will understand that to construct at every place where we have requests for bait depots is rather an expensive undertaking, because one must be assured first that at least you are going to attain to a reasonable degree a financially sound operation. As a result of the survey we have made, we are making certain changes which are now going on.

The minister has mentioned the new bait depot at Bonavista, which is one of the areas particularly where squid are available. This bait depot not only serves the local fishermen there but also acts as a storage plant to acquire the bait for distribution to other bait depots and other units in the program. Also, what we are doing this year, is taking over the bait depot at Long Harbour to be used also as another collecting and distributing point for servicing other bait depots. I think Mr. Carter raised the question at the last meeting of the committee about some small units which might be utilized for bait storage purposes. We had already investigated that, and tenders have already been let for the acquisition of small units to be placed in various locations in Newfoundland. They are a prefabricated storage unit, self-contained. It does not require a number of employees to operate and perhaps the small units in due time could be turned over for operation by the local fishermen themselves.

These prefabricated storage units will handle, I think, and have a capacity, of approximately 5,000 pounds of bait at a time. We also have funds, you will note, in the supplementary estimates under this vote for the acquisition of two refrigerated motor trucks to assist with the distribution of bait. So, Mr. Chairman, we are going to improve the bait service in Newfoundland to meet some of these difficulties which have been experienced by the fishermen in a number of localities to have bait available so that they can continue their fishing operations.

Mr. STEWART: Is that the only place in Canada where these services are maintained?

Mr. CLARK: That is correct. It is only in Newfoundland that we have these services.

Mr. BATTEN: What are the locations where these new units are to be built?