

Supply—Fisheries

good there is every reason to hope that this year the returns will be better than last year. I want to impress upon the minister the desirability of getting those 1950 returns in as quickly as possible so that if he is going to make a payment, it will be made soon. I have every reason to believe he is going to make a payment to the fishermen because of the extremely low prices they received.

I have sent the minister copies of the returns of some of the fishermen. He has probably seen others, and in any event the fisheries prices support board has seen them. The board knows that after September the price of fish went down. The prices which the fishermen received for their catch were far too low. They were not able to do anything more than barely pay the expenses of the fishery up to that time, and the men had nothing upon which to live during the winter. Fish was selling at an average of \$5 or \$6 a quintal, which was a drop from the previous year of \$13.45. It does not require very much imagination to know that the fishermen are up against it. I want to repeat that the fishery is the most important industry in Newfoundland from the point of view of the wide distribution of the returns when they are good. Fishermen are settled in various places all around Newfoundland, and therefore when good returns come in from the fishery they are spread throughout all those villages. Industry is concentrated; the mines are concentrated, and the paper mills are concentrated; but when the fishery gives good returns there is prosperity throughout the country. I believe the minister realizes that, and I trust that he will do all he can not only for the 1951 season but in regard to the 1950 season, so that the fishermen get the compensation which they need if they are to get a living wage from their catch.

Mr. Bryce: With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to extend to the member for St. John's West an invitation to visit the prairies. I know that I can look after him if he comes to Winnipeg, and I am sure that some of my colleagues in this corner would look after him in Saskatchewan and Alberta. We would try to show him something of the trials and tribulations of the wheat farmer. Perhaps then he would not speak in this house of the wonderful money the wheat farmer makes. We will show him something of the fishing on the prairies. He may not know anything about that, because we do not have an opportunity of raising Cain with the Minister of Fisheries. So far as we are concerned, it is a provincial matter.

I hope the member for St. John's West will accept my invitation. I know that if he does

[Mr. Browne (St. John's West).]

he will not talk about the easy money that the wheat farmers are making, especially when we explain to him about the drought, hail, frost, rust and so many other things that I do not want to take up the time of the house to list.

Item agreed to.

141. Information and educational service, \$138,572.

Mr. McLure: Item 141 covers information and educational services. I notice there is a decrease in this vote of some \$47,000. Evidently the department must have found that its policy was rather out of date. Some drastic change must have been made when they discussed the vote for it. I notice that there is one editor. I do not know what he can be editing now. He is at a salary of \$4,000. Then four more information officers are added. The permanent positions have been increased from four to six, at nearly double the total salaries. I think there are a few items in this vote as to which we might have some more details. Possibly we could be told the reason why these expenditures are decreased. If so, let us hear from the minister.

Mr. Mayhew: The decrease here is because, as you know, there was pressure on us to cut down as much as possible. We have cut out one film or picture and we have reduced our advertising. There is a reduction there in the latter item of \$15,000. There was an increase there of two information personnel. The total staff is down by four.

Mr. McLure: As to printing costs, have you cut out your advertising to a certain extent? I see that the printing costs there are three times what they used to be or what they were last year. The estimate for printing costs is \$22,700 this year as against \$7,700 last year. What new publications are being printed or are expected to be printed this year?

Mr. Mayhew: The items about which the hon. gentleman is inquiring are as follows: printing of the department's annual report, \$3,000; processing of *Trade News*, twelve issues, \$1,500; printing of *Canadian Fish Culture*, four issues, \$2,000; pamphlets and booklets for school and general educational use, \$15,000, and informational material \$1,200.

Mr. McLure: There is another item there for films and displays. I notice quite a reduction in that item, from \$119,000 last year to \$64,500. What part of that campaign did the minister find out was not of any benefit to the department, causing him to make this