

*The Address—Mr. Carter*

family allowances and provincial welfare payments. Apart from employment at the Canadian National Railways terminal at Port aux Basques and the fluorspar mines at St. Lawrence, the only bright spots in my riding are to be found in six or seven communities where fresh fish plants are in operation. Fresh fish plants are indispensable to the development of our fisheries and the rehabilitation of our fishermen, but they must not be regarded as the whole answer. The salt fish industry is equally essential to the prosperity of our fishermen and to the economy of our province; and it must be kept alive at all costs.

It is imperative that we find more and more remunerative markets for our salt cod, because the economic well-being and the prosperity of our fishermen depend to a very large extent upon competition between the fresh and salt fish industries. My own constituents, as well as fishermen in all parts of Canada, will be pleased to learn from the speech from the throne that loans, similar to prairie farm improvement loans, will be made available to them. This is a move in the right direction, and one that has been long overdue.

Our means of production are in great need of modernization, but on the other hand there is little point in catching fish that cannot be sold. The most urgent need of our fishermen is a variety of competitive outlets for their fish, because even with their present methods and means of production they can still produce much more than they are producing. There is no incentive for fishermen to produce fish unless they can sell their catch at a profit. What point is there in a fisherman toiling from early morn until late at night, day after day, only to find at the end of the year that he has barely met his cost of production?

For these reasons it is hoped that our Department of Trade and Commerce will continue their efforts to expand the markets for all our fisheries products, our salt fish as well as our fresh fish. We also need most urgently more research into the possibilities of the herring fisheries. The finning of fresh fish, fish tongues, fish cakes and fish roes also deserves far more attention than it has received up to now.

It will be a sad day for Newfoundland when our salt fish industry disappears. But not only will it disappear; the fresh fish industry too will be seriously affected unless unemployment insurance benefits are extended to our fishermen without further delay.

In many settlements today the fishermen actively engaged in the fisheries are all over

[Mr. Carter.]

50 years of age. When they can carry on no longer there will be no one to take their places in the fishing boats, because all the younger generation are forsaking the fisheries for other forms of employment which carry with them unemployment insurance benefits. And who can blame them?

We are all happy to learn from the speech from the throne that war veterans allowances and blind pensions are to be increased. This will meet with universal approval throughout the whole nation, for no two groups among us have a better claim to a greater share in the growing prosperity of this country.

The speech from the throne also indicates that unemployment insurance benefits are to be extended. This will be welcomed by all, and it is hoped that the proposed changes will include the extension of these benefits to our fishermen, because this is absolutely essential to the survival of our fisheries.

While I am dealing with matters affecting fishermen I know my constituents would never forgive me if I failed to mention one matter that concerns them very much, namely the restriction on the shooting of turrs. Hon. members who were present in this house on March 14, 1951, which was a private members' day, will recall that the whole sitting was devoted to the discussion of this problem, when Mr. Gordon Higgins, who then represented St. John's East, introduced an amendment to the Migratory Birds Convention Act with the object of having these restrictions relaxed. Both the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Winters), who was then minister of resources and development, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) took part in that debate and indicated by their remarks a sympathetic attitude toward this problem, as can be seen by a reference to pages 1260 and 1261 of *Hansard* of that day.

Following that debate the restrictions on the shooting of turrs were relaxed and continued relaxed until last fall when, without warning, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police began rigidly to enforce them once more. This is very difficult to understand, because no warning was given and no public announcement or statement with reference to the matter was made by anyone in authority. To add to the confusion, there are rumours that restrictions are being rigidly enforced in some sections of our province and not in others.

As far as my own riding is concerned, the situation now is even worse than it was in 1951. I have already described the desperate condition under which many of my people are trying to exist. This Christmas