

Supply—Fisheries

division, taxation statistics for 1955, page 63. An asterisk indicates less than \$100, but for Newfoundland there is a stroke line, which indicates even less than that. Apparently no fisherman in Newfoundland had taxable income in 1955.

Mr. McCleave: Except the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate.

Mr. Morris: I do not mean to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the problems of the fishing industry are easy of solution. I am not blaming the former minister of fisheries for all the things that are wrong with the fishing industry. I am not going to say that everything can be fixed overnight. I am not a fisherman, but I have a good fishing constituency and I have gone fishing with the fishermen and I know some of their problems. I know, for instance, that since June 10 we have taken out three rotted Liberal wharves in my constituency; we have barricaded three others as being unfit for human travel. A few days before the election somebody tore out the last piles under the wharf at Lower Prospect, which used to be one of our finest fishing communities. On the 1957 voters' list there were 91 people listed, compared with 200 to 300 in former years. Of the 91, only three fishermen under the age of 60 were fishing out of Lower Prospect last June.

Since June 10 we have made repairs of one sort or another to fishermen's wharves, breakwaters or facilities at Indian Harbour, Sambro, Sandy Cove, Portuguese Cove, Herring Cove, MacNab's Island, Three Fathom Harbour, Turner's Island and Ecum Secum. We propose improvements or surveys for Carter's Point, Cooper's Point, Ecum Secum, Port Dufferin, West Quoddy, Boutillier's Point, Bayside and Lower Prospect.

Mr. Chairman, without attempting to bring forth derision, because I know what the hon. member will say about these things, I want to say that we have set up a royal commission to examine, among other things, the prices of food products including fisheries prices. I know something about how that came to be done. That at least will establish some basic factual material of benefit to the fisheries. In the Liberal administration the fisheries were supervised by a group of well-padded snoopers. I found in my constituency that fishing licences were being granted only after consultation with the local Liberal chairman. That has stopped in my constituency.

Mr. Pickersgill: Whom do they consult now?

Mr. Morris: They do not consult anybody now. Now they are hired civil servants, free of political domination. I have seen

fisheries inspectors or fisheries officers throw traps back into the water with only one button secured so that the fisherman, if he caught anything, would lose it. That has stopped too.

Things were not very grand for the fishing industry under the Liberal administration. I have a letter here which would show you just how bad they were. It reads:

Dear Mr. Morris:

I understand that some funds from the government have now been authorized for the construction of an outhouse on the wharf at Sheet harbour east.

Mr. Chairman, under the Liberal administration the fishermen were denied even that elementary facility.

Mr. Cameron: It would appear that the fish in the Atlantic ocean are extremely political animals, much more political than our undeveloped fish on the Pacific coast which, I imagine, would view the prospect of being caught under the auspices of either a Liberal or Conservative government with distaste. However, it has been interesting to note the way in which the codfish of the Atlantic ocean have been wooed by the former government and by the present government and we can only hope that they will cast their ballots in the right way when the election takes place.

On the Pacific coast we have perhaps a rather less well developed point of view—we are a primitive people of course—and we look at the matter in a more or less objective manner, as to the best way to develop our fishing industry, without too much regard to the political auspices under which that development takes place.

In fact I can recall only one instance in recent years where politics have entered into a discussion of fisheries and that was during the campaign of my friend the hon. member for Coast-Capilano when at a meeting one of his opponents was asked if he did not agree that the hon. member for Coast-Capilano had made an excellent minister of fisheries, the opponent very quickly said, "Oh yes, I think he did and if I were a salmon I would certainly vote for him." However, by and large we do not pay very much attention to the political aspects of the administration of the fisheries department. We have the idea that sometimes the department is not wise, but we do not make the mistake of imagining that it is a shortcoming in the higher political echelons.

I should like first of all to express my very real appreciation of the courtesy of the new Minister of Fisheries this summer when he was in my constituency in coming out to visit me at my house before going to the constituency of my colleague, the hon. member