

legislation at the special request of the people of the Maritime Provinces, the idea being that at least they had a right to decide whether or not to present to the Minister a scheme which they thought would come within the requirements of the Act and be to their benefit. I should not want this House to deny them that right by the proposed amendment.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: I want to say, honourable gentlemen, that I do not think the honourable member from Gloucester (Hon. Mr. Turgeon) has any warrant whatever for asking that the fishermen of Nova Scotia be denied the privileges of this Bill. If he wants to have the fishermen of New Brunswick denied those privileges, well and good; but he should keep his hands off Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. McCORMICK: Before this House entertains any proposal affecting an important industry like the fishing industry of the Maritime Provinces, it should have the opinion of the people of the Maritime Provinces generally. So far as my own province is concerned, I say that the people should be consulted. We should have an expression of their views before we do anything of the kind proposed.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: The honourable gentleman (Hon. Mr. Turgeon) has said the people asked for it.

Hon. Mr. McCORMICK: They have not asked for it. Only one county in the province of New Brunswick has asked for it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The honourable senator from Provencher (Hon. Mr. Molloy) asked that wheat be excluded from the operation of this Bill because the wheat growers of the Western Provinces did not want to come under it. Now a motion is made to exclude the fish of the Maritime Provinces. Is it the general opinion of the representatives of the three Maritime Provinces that fish should not be included under the Bill? The right honourable the leader of the Government says that fish were included because of the insistence of the members—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The people of the Maritime Provinces.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Because of Maritime opinion as expressed in the other House. Of course I must take the statement of my right honourable friend; but nothing has come to us which indicates the wishes of the people of the Maritime Provinces. We have a member here, though, who states that he would not want the Bill to apply to the fisheries of his county and the neighbouring

counties. We have members from the three Maritime Provinces, and I should like to know whether there is really a feeling that the fisheries should be excluded from the operation of the Bill.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I have not said that the Bill did not include fish when it was introduced into the other House, but I am informed that when it was first prepared it did not deal with fish or lumber, and that the industries dealing with those commodities were added at their own request.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS: The request to have the fisheries brought in under this Bill was made by the member from Lunenburg county, the most important fishing county in the Maritime Provinces. With all due respect to the honourable senator from Gloucester (Hon. Mr. Turgeon), I wish to say that unless some marketing system is organized the fishing industry of the Maritime Provinces, especially of Nova Scotia, will soon be a thing of the past. Ten years ago more than one hundred vessels, with crews ranging from twenty-five to thirty men, sailed out of the port of Lunenburg; last year twenty-two ships sailed out of that port. The shore fishermen, especially in the province of Nova Scotia, are looking with hope to this new legislation, and in view of the fact that an investigation is being carried on now on behalf of the Committee on Price Spreads and Mass Buying, I think it would be most unfortunate, and possibly disastrous to the fishing industry in Nova Scotia, to exclude that industry from the Bill. There are 16,000 fishermen in the province of Nova Scotia. Last year many of them earned less than \$300, and in the little harbours along the coast hundreds of families were kept alive during the winter by public relief. To-day, because of the disastrous storms of last winter, many of them are without vessels or gear, and the situation this year is not too bright. As a matter of fact, a campaign is now being conducted in Nova Scotia to fix a minimum price for fish in that province. I hope, therefore, this honourable body will not pass this amendment, especially with respect to the province of Nova Scotia.

The amendment of Hon. Mr. Turgeon was negatived.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: Honourable members, I wish to call the attention of the House to section 8 of the Bill. I do not clearly understand it, nor do I understand the explanation given by the right honourable the leader of this House, whose explanations are usually very clear.