

could get a body of men for nothing. This is a body of men that he is getting for nothing. I know these men. They have been working for the department for years and they have given time to this work. Some of them, owing to lack of the cooperation they desired, have resigned and left the board. I am not altogether pessimistic about the biological board. We need it and we need these men at the head of it, but there must be some driving force behind it. The department must support it and it would be wise to say to the biological board: So far you have been giving a great deal of attention to eastern Canada; put more men on the west and get results there. It is very sad if our salmon industry cannot be brought up in the same way as they have brought up the lake Ontario whitefish industry, and I believe the same results can be accomplished.

Item agreed to.

Marine Biological Board of Canada—further amount required—(a) purely scientific work, \$10,000.

Mr. McRAE: What is this for?

Mr. CARDIN: This is a further amount required for the biological board for purely scientific work.

Mr. McRAE: I would like to move that it be reduced to \$1.

Mr. CARDIN: I do not think my hon. friend is fair in making that request. I have been given the following particulars in regard to the increase in this vote. It is proposed to remodel, extend and equip a building for experimental fish handling, which work it is estimated will cost \$4,500. The board also proposes to enlarge and furnish an existing house to accommodate scientific workers with families. This also will cost \$4,500. The above extension will be made at the biological station at St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

I think after the remarks which have been made by my hon. friend from Kingston City, the department should rather be supported for giving to the board all the money they require to carry on their work. No one disputes the importance of the work which the board has been doing in the past. It is true that I have not given a very lengthy statement of what they have accomplished, but I have never failed to give credit to that very important organization for the good work which they have done. This morning I mentioned more particularly the very important investigations which they have made in British Columbia in regard to the discolouration of halibut. They have found the

[Mr. A. E. Ross.]

cause of the trouble and have suggested a remedy. That is very important and, as my hon. friend from North Vancouver admitted, it is something worth while. In Halifax the board has discovered a method of rapid freezing which is going to prove very advantageous for the fisheries as a whole. I need not say that the department is quite ready to cooperate with the board. While its work is largely of a scientific nature, in practically every country, and perhaps more so in countries not far distant from us, industry is going in for scientific research more and more. I think therefore that we should not be asked to reduce the amount which we are asking the committee to place at the disposal of the board in order to permit them to continue and even extend their works. The request for this increased vote does not come simply from the department but from the board itself. They feel that they need this additional amount to carry on properly the work which has been assigned to them, and I think it would be unfair and not in the interests of the industry which it is seeking to serve to refuse this small additional amount. I can see the point made by my hon. friend that the board's activities in British Columbia should probably be extended further, and that they should be requested to give more of their time to the important problem of reclaiming as much as possible the sockeye fisheries. I can assure him that his views and those that have been expressed by other hon. members will be brought before the board, and I shall ask them to give special attention to the interests of British Columbia during the coming year.

Mr. McRAE: I wish to make it perfectly clear that my sympathy is entirely with the biological board, but I want to make it equally clear to the committee that it is the unanimous opinion of those interested in the industry in British Columbia that the board lacks practical direction. That is not the fault of the board so much as it is of the department. There is an increase of 74 per cent in the vote this year over last year, and I submit that in view of the discussion on fisheries which has taken place in this house in the past week, the minister might very well forego this supplementary vote entirely. The list he has read is for more or less permanent improvements. I think the committee would feel better if we got along without any supplementary vote for this purpose, and next year, as the minister has said, he will be able to come here with the matter better in hand, and the committee will understand better what work is being done and the