

of the ferry during those weeks, offers very poor passenger service, and I sincerely trust that this important matter will not be overlooked. Prince Edward Island is only a small province, but it is one of the provinces of this Dominion; the other provinces have their interprovincial bridges and other means of transportation, so why not give little Prince Edward Island the same amount of consideration? We are only asking for a fair deal, to be treated as a province of this Dominion should be treated and given the transportation facilities now enjoyed by the other provinces.

There is another question which has been discussed at various times and which is supported by all shades of political opinion in Prince Edward Island, that is, the need for more branch lines to extend the present railway system in that province. This is very important, and the matter has been brought to the attention of the government by myself and the other members from that province. We sincerely hope that it will be taken into favourable consideration by the railway management. Perhaps it is difficult to grant all the things we ask, but Prince Edward Island is purely an agricultural province; unless our people have adequate shipping facilities near at hand to take care of their products it is impossible for them to carry on, and we ask that these matters be given very favourable consideration.

The question of the fisheries of the maritimes is before a royal commission, and we entertain the hope that some assistance will be given towards removing some of the difficulties which our fishermen have to contend with. One recommendation I wish to make now is that some small boat harbours be constructed along exposed coasts, which would be a great benefit to our people. I do not know any class who endure the same hardships as the fishermen on the exposed coasts of the maritime provinces, and if a vote should be brought before this house with a view of alleviating their condition I hope that members from other parts of the Dominion will not look upon it as something which is being handed out in a political way to ridings in the maritime provinces. I wish to protest emphatically against such an idea as that, and to say that there is not a small boat harbour, wharf or breakwater on the coast of the maritimes which does not benefit the fishermen and the shipping public. Greater facilities are needed, and I hope that the requests we have made to the department in this connection will be considered this year.

There are a few suggestions I should like to make having as their object the improvement of the fisheries situation. They may be summarized as follows:

[Mr. A. E. MacLean.]

(1) Some assistance to develop a better system of preparing our fish for market so that a uniform and absolutely reliable brand or pack may be put on the market.

(2) That assistance be given to the fishermen by way of cold storage facilities and swift transportation to enable them to place their fish on the market in the best possible form.

(3) That a system of inspection be instituted in order that the pack may carry the inspector's guarantee as to quality.

(4) That the superior qualities of the lobster over the Japanese crab or the American crayfish be advertised to the world by the Department of Fisheries.

I may say that other varieties of fish are encroaching upon the market for lobsters, which used to be a wonderful industry in the maritimes. I think it is only necessary to demonstrate the superiority of the lobster over fish sought to be introduced as substitutes to convince everyone that the lobster should receive its rightful place in the markets of the world.

(5) That special attention be given to the restoration of the oyster areas in the maritimes, especially the habitat of the famous Malpeque oyster.

For the past few years we have been asking the Department of Fisheries to do something towards the restoration of these former wonderful areas. I brought the matter up in this house a few years ago, and I had the support at that time of the hon. member for West York (Sir Henry Drayton) who is not with us this session. That hon. gentleman stated that in his opinion there was not a more important question before the house that session than the restoration of these oyster areas, and if it was at all possible the effort should be made to restore them to their old time condition. I believe that if a proper expert were put in charge of this work, those wonderful Malpeque oysters which were formerly the envy of the world could be brought back to a proper state of productivity. There is no doubt that if this were done hundreds of thousands of dollars would accrue to the fishermen of our province.

(6) That the present season now in effect in the maritimes for lobster fishing be retained, with a possible change of opening dates and boundaries to suit conditions.

(7) That every day's lobster pack be labelled with a government label and that there be a tag on the case, giving the name of the packer and the date on which the product was packed, so that no fish can be sold without this government guarantee.

These are a few recommendations which I am sure would help the fishermen, and I trust