

Supply—Fisheries

If the Americans wanted to develop Shepody they could get three times the power. They could afford to throw in the Chignecto canal. There is \$100 million there with the Chignecto canal, and they could afford to throw that in and yet develop the head of the bay; because they have tides there up to 60 feet, and down in Passamaquoddy we only have 16 feet at the head. They could get three times the power at the head of the bay with about two thirds of the cost. So I cannot see that it is reasonable to develop Passamaquoddy from a power standpoint. But, Mr. Chairman, that is neither here nor there.

However, I believe we should know why these small fish come there. That is the most important question. You could understand it if from year to year there was a certain pattern of fish coming in there; you would know they were spawned in a certain place and drifted in, and so on, with the tides. But this is not so. Sometimes they come in small, sometimes they come in large, and then they come in small again. This type of fish has been coming there for a thousand years, I suppose, and nobody knows why. All we ask the fisheries department to tell us is why they come there; then we will not oppose power or anything. We want to know why the fish come there; why from year to year they come there small, and then large, and so on and so forth. At the present time in our companies I suppose we have 300,000 or 400,000 cases of large fish packed up in what we call 13 ounce and 7 ounce. We have to go out in the world markets and sell these fish. In the sardine industry you have to pack the fish as they come along; you cannot just pick and choose. We are no good to the fishermen unless we take what they bring in; and we have to pack what they bring in, large or small.

This year they were running large, and we have hundreds of thousands of cases of large fish which we have to go out in the world markets and sell. Next year perhaps they will run small and we will have to go out and find markets for small fish. We do not know what size they will be; but if we knew through research what we were going to have from year to year, we would know what we had to go out and advertise and sell in the sardine markets. This industry has grown from a few thousand cases to over two million cases. At the present time in the sardine industry three to one tins of sardines are packed in Canada. That is the proportion. In this country we pack more than the great United States; we pack more than Norway. So,

[Mr. McLean (Charlotte).]

Mr. Chairman, this industry deserves some attention and some research.

Another subject upon which I should like to touch is the clam situation. We told the fisheries department 15 or 20 years ago that they were not going to have any clams unless there was some conservation in the industry. Today we have no clams in New Brunswick. Why? Because conservation was not practised. The scientists in the fisheries department said, "No; it is the green crab", or something, "that is destroying the clams". I will tell you, as a practical man, what destroyed the clams. It was the fishermen; because you cannot sell a clam unless it is two inches long. The clam digger goes along and digs a row. He takes the two inch clams out and sells them. But where he takes a barrel of two inch clams he probably exposes four barrels of smaller clams, and he does not do anything about them; he is not going to bury them again. What happens? The gulls and crows take over. According to the scientists a gull cannot eat a clam because a clam has a shell on it; but I think the gull has probably a little more sense than the scientist, because he takes the clam up in the air, drops it on the rocks, the clam opens, and the gull comes down and eats it. That is what happens. Today our clam beds have been exhausted. We have told, not only this government but other governments, about the clam situation and they have not done anything about it.

They should do something about it. We should conserve our clams down in New Brunswick. I think we should conserve the beds and do something for the future; because I remember the day when we had clam factories all along the coast—and today there are none. There is no reason for this situation; there is no reason why we should not have more than one clam factory; in fact, we should have a dozen. But, as I say, we haven't any. In my opinion we need more research in this matter and perhaps a little more common sense in the fisheries department. I know the minister has all kinds of common sense, because he was born and bred in the fishing industry in New Brunswick. I served on the fisheries committee and heard the deputy minister, and I know he knows all about the fisheries. But they want to use some common sense in this matter and we want more research.

This research is needed if the sardine industry is to progress. It has grown. I would say it is something like Topsy—it just grows. But they have their setbacks and there is no reason for them. This industry should go