

to this matter. As a matter of fact at the present time on the order paper there is a resolution standing in the name of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggarr (Mr. Coldwell), who was acting on behalf of this group. The resolution reads:

That in view of the international marketing situation and the present outlook for the primary products of agriculture and fishing. . . .

I would ask the hon. member to note that word.

This house urges the government to place before it, at this session of parliament, concrete proposals for the establishment of guaranteed minimum prices for the products of these industries, together with such legislation as may be necessary to institute co-operative or governmental control of packing and processing plants concerned with the primary products of agriculture and fishing.

Again let me pause to note the inclusion of the word "fishing."

Further that guaranteed minimum prices for primary products should be based upon the determination to provide for adequate standards of living for those engaged in their production and also to eliminate, as far as possible, the disparity between the prices of the products of monopolistic and highly protected industries and those of the unprotected primary producers of Canada.

It seems quite improbable that this resolution will be brought before the house. However, I introduced it in this connection to emphasize the fact that we are not indifferent to the plight of the eastern fishermen. The hon. member for Halifax did not refer to the plight of the western fishermen, but those of us who have lived on the west coast know that they are having difficulties although somewhat different from those of the easterners. The minister said that those engaged in the fresh fish industry are fairly well able to take care of themselves. The minister nods his head, but I do not believe that to be true. Only a few weeks ago I quoted an extract from the *Halifax Herald* and directed attention to the wide spread between the amount paid to the fisherman and the amount charged the consumer. That in itself indicates that the men engaged in the fresh fish industry are not receiving all that is coming to them. The minister is indefinite as to the kind of assistance to be granted and I think the committee should receive more explicit information on that point.

I am glad to note that this proposed government board is to act as an exporter. This is in line with what the members of this group have been advocating, that this government should set up both export and import boards. If the Liberal government remain in power

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

long enough I think they will gradually come to recognize the necessity of the broader program which we urge.

Mr. BROOKS: I do not intend to make any extended remarks on this resolution, because the need of the fishermen in the maritime provinces is only too well known. As was very well expressed this morning by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud), and as we have heard on numerous occasions in this house, when a fisherman finds himself unemployed at his regular vocation, there is no manufacturing industry to which he can turn for employment. Also because of his situation it is impossible for him to engage in farming. I am in favour of any help that can be given to the fishermen of the maritime provinces. These fishermen were perhaps disappointed when the United States treaty went through this house, particularly those engaged in the salt fish industry. As the minister points out, it is entirely a question of marketing. Over a period of years we have lost our markets in the West Indies, which we all know was a most serious blow to the maritime fishermen. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Isnor) has suggested that when this treaty is renewed some effort should be made to get our fish into the West Indies. This would prove a great boon to those engaged in the industry.

While the department has made considerable effort to increase the consumption of fish in Canada, I still think that more could be done along this line, especially for the salt fish industry. We know that it is not possible to send fresh fish all over Canada, but the shipping of salt fish is a different matter. If the situation were studied, I think the consumption of salt fish could be increased in western Canada as well as in other parts of the country. A number of investigations have been held into the marketing of salt fish over a period of years. It seems to me that we are continually investigating this matter but not getting very far. I believe a commission went down to the West Indies last year to investigate the marketing of salt and other fish in the West Indies and in other parts of the south. That commission must have collected considerable information. The provincial governments have also collected information in this regard and there must be sufficient data available in the department without appointing more commissions.

It must be remembered that we have trade commissioners in the West Indies, in other parts of the southern hemisphere and throughout the world. These officials could give considerable help in this regard. I do not