

*Supply—Fisheries*

were going to receive for their catch. The fishermen have no idea, and they should have a very good idea because costs of outfitting fishermen have risen. I have a letter here from which I should like to read one or two sentences. It is from a very intelligent and successful fisherman who says that the cost of fishery supplies has advanced considerably. The letter reads in part:

"Manila rope—"

Which is used very extensively by trap fishermen.

—which sold last year for 28 cents per pound is now 48 cents per pound. Cod trap twine last year was 80 cents per pound; now it is \$1.02 per pound.

He wrote this letter on May 13. I do not know if any concessions in the budget would make any difference in these prices. The letter continues:

The price of other fishing essentials has increased considerably. Some are even double the 1950 price.

I have been constantly referring to the plight of the fishermen when this subject has come up for discussion in the house because the fisherman works at a great disadvantage. Unless he can get a fair return for his catch he becomes dependent on the government or he has to leave his home and seek work elsewhere. As a result of the poor fishing in 1950 many fishermen have given up fishing this year. Here is what this man says with regard to the 1950 catch:

To say the least they are disappointed and disillusioned. I am quite sure that not more than fifty per cent of those who fished here in 1950 will return to the fishery again this year. Also, the same attitude seems to prevail elsewhere as may be seen from the northern settlement which announced that they will not launch any boats unless the government guarantees a reasonable price for fish caught in 1951, and the fishermen owner of a schooner and three cod traps, whom a friend of mine found looking for a job at Fort Pepperell.

That is a United States base. Other fishermen have written to me along the same lines. These are men whom I am proud to know, and in whose opinion I have the greatest confidence.

Another gentleman writes that the fishermen's convention was disappointing, because there was no information given about the floor price for the 1951 catch. He said that if they had known what they were likely to get for the 1950 catch they would have gone home satisfied. Then he continues:

From what I can hear the fishing will be better this year anyway. I am going fishing again, but if I have to sell at a low price I expect at least there will be one on the doorstep of the fisheries price support board.

Then he says that they heard a lot about the prices support board during the talk

about confederation, but it has not resulted in much benefit to them so far. He continues:

There will be a lot that won't be fishing this year. I heard some of the larger boats have a job to get sharemen, in view of what happened with the fish last fall. If we are let down this year, I fear it will see the end of the dried cod fishery.

These are very serious statements to be coming from a man of mature years, who I know is held in high respect by everyone.

Here is another letter from a man who is a justice of the peace as well as a fisherman. He says:

The cost of outfitting is so high that many of our young fishermen are giving it up and going to Greenland, Goose Bay, etc.

I feel that the minister is really sympathetic, but I have never felt sure that he realizes how important it is that the fishermen not only get a good catch but that they get good prices for the fish. An experiment is being conducted in the district of the Secretary of State by having some long liners out. I do not know why it is so desirable that an event of that kind should take place in the constituency represented by the Secretary of State. There are other places which I believe would be much more suitable. I would say there are places along the southern shore, which incidentally happens to be in my riding, which are really more suitable for an experiment of that nature. The southern shore is much nearer to the banks of Newfoundland than Bonavista. It would seem to me that long liners operating out of ports along the southern shore such as Ferryland, Cape Broyle and Renew's would give very much quicker results than any experiment made from Bonavista. However, I am glad to know he is making an experiment with a drier in Bay Bulls.

**Mr. Mayhew:** That is in your district?

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** Yes, that is in my district, but it is nearer the banks. Any place which is nearer the banks means a quicker visit to the banks and a quicker return. The banks of Newfoundland have been famous for four hundred and fifty years. The fishermen from Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, England and the United States are coming there every year. These other places are really experimental. However, I am glad to know the minister is making that experiment with the drier. I feel sure that from a scientific standpoint the presence of the nine engineers he has mentioned may be a good thing in the long run. What the fishermen are concerned with now is what they can get from the 1950 catch, and what they can expect for their 1951 catch. I understand that no floor price has been set for the 1951 catch, but as the market promises to be