

Supply—Fisheries

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): The old squidjigger.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the hon. gentleman now read to us the resolution on fishing adopted by the Conservative convention in 1956?

Mr. Morris: If I could be allowed to defer that I will do so later. I have not brought it with me. However I should be glad to enter it into the record as quickly as I can after my speech. I have not it with me.

Mr. Pickersgill: In other words, the hon. member came in without his own resolution?

Mr. Morris: That is correct. I came in without a lot of resolutions on a lot of other things—

Mr. Pickersgill: That is self-evident.

Mr. Morris: —adopted by the Conservative party and the Liberal party. Let us check out this record of achievement in the fishing industry. In 1954, the value of production in fish processing establishments in the Atlantic region of less than \$199,999 totalled 83.9 per cent of the total of all production. On the west coast, in the Pacific region, these plants of a similar productivity value accounted for only 51.2 per cent in their area. In so far as the gross value of sales was concerned, 25.1 per cent in the Atlantic region was under \$200,000; in the Pacific region, only 2.8 per cent.

Let us check out the number of fishermen, a good test of the effect of policy. In 1944 there were 64,200 in Canada, excluding Newfoundland, and in 1950 there were only 700 more. Let us check out employment in the fish processing plants in the maritimes and Quebec. There was exactly the same number employed in 1954 as there was in 1917. From 1944 to 1950, employment actually dropped by 100.

Let us check what the Liberal administration did in respect of price policy for fish. Here, Mr. Chairman, is chapter 120 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, which is the Fisheries Prices Support Act. This act was passed in 1944 but not promulgated until 1947. How much was done under that act which contained wide powers? The Fisheries Prices Support Act empowered the board to purchase directly or by means of agents any fishery product if such product on inspection met standards as to grade and quality prescribed by or under the act, and to pay to the producer of a fisheries product directly or through such agents the difference between a price prescribed by the board for such fisheries product and the average price as determined by the board.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate who described the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg this morning as a juvenile might bear in mind that this young man who sits right ahead of me was fishing with a handline from a dory when the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate was pushing a pencil in the civil service and waiting to get into politics. This is the hon. member who is so concerned about our attitude toward fisheries. On June 8 last, fish prices at Halifax were as follows—this is 48 hours before the election—

Mr. Pickersgill: Forty-eight hours?

Mr. Morris: These figures were published on June 8, and that is 48 hours before June 10. I am sorry I am being interrupted in making these things clear which are so apparent. The prices are as follows: cod steaks, 3½ cents per pound—prosperity for fishermen—cod scrod, 1½ cents per pound; haddock, large, from 4 to 5 cents a pound. Those were the prices fishermen were receiving just before the election. Let us look at the situation today. The price of cod steaks is 3¾ cents per pound, up 15 per cent; cod scrod, 1.75 cents, up 15 per cent; haddock, large 6 cents, up 20 to 50 per cent. We do not say this is all the result of government policy, but there must be something going on to increase fish prices.

Mr. Robichaud: Would the hon. member permit a question? Does the hon. member who pretends to know so much about fishing know that in the winter months there is only about 10 to 20 per cent of the fleet fishing and the prices for ground fish always go up?

Mr. Morris: That is unquestionably and undeniably a sizeable factor. I am not denying that. We are not taking all the credit for this situation. I am quoting facts. I am quoting from page 5, column 6, of the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* for January 9, 1958 and from page 14, column 2, of the same newspaper for June 8, 1957. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate says that everything was fine in the fishing industry under the previous government.

Mr. Pickersgill: Where does the hon. gentleman find that statement?

Mr. Morris: In the 1955 tax year, in Nova Scotia there were only 330 fishermen out of our total force of fishermen who had taxable incomes. They paid to the treasury of Canada an average tax of \$4.11 per week. Prosperity. In this report the province of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, which deserves a much better fisheries policy, is marked with a hairline. This report is the Department of National Revenue, taxation