

Supply—Fisheries

limit. It is not a definite international law. It came into being many years ago when Newfoundland had a dispute with the French people over the fishing grounds, and an award was made on that basis by The Hague court. I spoke about that two years ago. It is not a definite limit, and the matter was under review by the old league of nations, who did not settle the problem, and I believe it is now under review by the United Nations.

Until a definite ruling is made there is no reason why we should adhere to the three mile limit. Our shore fishermen in Newfoundland fish beyond three miles from our coast, and there are many good fishing grounds within the twelve mile area from our coast. I feel the time has come when we should review this situation and establish a twelve mile limit the same as the United States did when they had this rum row situation some years ago. It only needs a little courage to take the step. Norway has a four mile limit. If we press for a twelve mile limit we will protect our fisheries as they were never protected before.

So far as conservation is concerned, the Grand Banks are the breeding ground for a lot of our fish, and that fish comes to our shores in enormous quantities. Any depletion of the Grand Banks is going to affect our shore fisheries. For that reason I stress the point that under these international commissions we should take up this matter of the draggers going over these grounds and spoiling the spawning grounds. This is vital to us and it is a matter which must be given grave consideration.

Another matter I wish to mention has to do with the fisheries on the west coast, and the new methods of catching herring. These herring come into the Bay of Islands in the millions, but for the last few years they have not been coming into the bay. The fishermen say it is because the draggers go out and catch them in the deep water. If these operations continue the herring will be depleted. Some people say that is the cause of it, but I do not know. It is time we had a study made, a proper survey made of that important industry so far as the west coast is concerned.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, may I say that if we could have a set-up on the east coast the same as they have on the west coast, which I saw in 1950, we would have no complaints in regard to this department. They have the best organized set-up that we have in Canada. We want a similar set-up on the east coast, and the quicker we get it the better. When we get it I believe a lot of our fishing problems will be solved. We are beginning a new era so far as the east coast fishery is concerned. I have far more

hope today for our fishing industry than I ever had. However, it needs constant supervision; it needs the best men we can get in the industry; and it needs push and go from this department and the provincial government. It needs a strong pull and a pull all together. By doing that, I believe we can put this important industry on its feet. Then, we will not have to come here with complaints about a depressed industry.

I bring these matters that are of vital importance to the minister's attention today, and I trust that these matters will be given proper consideration and that we will have a happy industry. I know that is the aim of the minister. We will have an industry that will be a credit to this country, an industry that will be valuable to the country, and one that will grow in value as time passes.

Mr. Barnett: May I call it six o'clock?

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, like other members in various parts of the house I found the preliminary speech delivered this afternoon by the Minister of Fisheries a most interesting and fruitful one. I must say that on the basis of such knowledge as I have been able to acquire in the relatively short time I have been a member of the house I find myself in agreement with most of the policies of his department, as he outlined them this afternoon.

That is particularly true in reference to his remarks in connection with what is being done by the department in the field of conservation, and of national and international work to protect our fishing resources. I was particularly pleased to note that he mentioned the appointment of Dr. Kask as permanent chairman of the fisheries research board, because I feel from such knowledge as I have been able to acquire that the most important thing about knowledge in connection with fisheries is the somewhat astounding lack of knowledge of mankind concerning this subject, even though fishing is one of the oldest means of providing a livelihood.

There was one item the minister mentioned, about the real significance of which I have been wondering. I wish he might have expounded a little more upon it. When referring to British Columbia, as I recall it, he said that we could have our power and our fishing, too. He is probably as much or more