

Supply—Fisheries

the maritimes at different places not yet chosen. The price paid to the fishermen for dried cod is on an average of 6·6 cents a pound.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is green cod.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): Yes. The ceiling price at 3·5 cents, raw, translated into terms of dried fish for export purposes, means 13·28 cents that we are paying. There is no ceiling price for the domestic product.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is the price to the government for export under its commitments—13·28 cents?

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): Yes. I cannot say that the price of 37 cents a pound seems to be very high. However, it is not in my department.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I can give the minister first-class evidence on that point. But what about this question of bait? The minister has not given me any undertaking at all that he will comply with my request to look into the matter of bait.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): The plants which we wish to build will be for the refrigeration of processed fish and also for bait purposes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I agree with that; but what about the present? I am asking the minister to look into the matter and see to it that the condition which exists to-day shall not continue. While I am on my feet, may I ask him whether the price of 6·6 cents is for the whole fish or the cleaned fish, because there is a marked difference between the two.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): That is for salted fish not boned, 6·6 cents.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Are the entrails out? They are an important part of the weight of the fish. If they are cleaned fish—

Mr. BERTRAND (York-Sunbury): Yes, they are cleaned fish.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): —then that is not a very high price, because the head and entrails would be at least one-third of the weight, and that is a very low price to-day.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): It is very high in comparison with what was paid in previous years.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): But the price in previous years was a distress price.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): I may say to my hon. friend that I have been twice in the

[Mr. E. Bertrand.]

maritimes and the fisheries association were very happy. As regards the price charged by the Gorton Pew company, that is not in my province, but I shall inquire to find out what's what.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The minister says that it is not in his jurisdiction; that is what he is telling us. I will tell him this, if he will allow me, and I am not doing it in any fault-finding spirit, because I want action and I know that if I am to get action I must not scold the minister. This, however, is a part of the duties of the department in developing the deep sea fisheries. Bait is a very important item in the development of deep sea fishing, and it ought to be the object of the department to get this bait for the fishermen who operate these fisheries and to get it as cheaply as possible. The price that is paid for the bait to the original producers and the price charged by the same company to the same producer to produce cod fish represent too great a spread—150 per cent—and I have been told, although I have no evidence of this, that there has been an advance of even 400 per cent; that is to say, eight cents has been charged for what cost the company two cents, less, of course, the service rendered. The minister, in the course of carrying out the will of parliament in voting this sum of \$30,000, which I see has been reduced by \$10,000, although I am not quite sure why—

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): I explained that the other day.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Well, I am not questioning that at the moment. However, the minister could very well conduct an investigation through one of his fisheries officers to find out what the company actually pay, what the charges are when they sell and what the cost of the service rendered would amount to, and arrive at a net figure of what this company's profit is, on what, after all, is a relatively small part of their operations. The minister has the authority to do this. If he has not, at any rate he can soon pass a regulation under the Fisheries Act which would enable him to conduct such an investigation. I ask him to have that done in order to have what I regard as an improper situation righted. I have no more to say in that regard, but I have thought of communicating with the war-time prices and trade board with reference to this matter and the other one. I have made myself such a nuisance to them, however, that I hesitate to call on them again. As a matter of fact, I must confess that I have never been able to accomplish very much with the war-time prices and trade board. They know more about everything than I ever knew about