

Supply—Fisheries

suffered for some years from rheumatism and he suddenly remembered he was represented by a member who always paid very close attention to the needs and representations of his constituents. So he wrote me a letter to say that he suffered from rheumatism and he had remembered that the pioneers cured their rheumatism by rolling an eelskin around the joint in question and could I obtain for him an eelskin. So I took up the matter with the Minister of Fisheries who immediately said he would see what he could do about it. After a short time a tobacco tin arrived in my office containing an eelskin, in salt. I forwarded the eelskin to the constituent who is now enjoying the effects of this eelskin wrapped around his arthritic joints and he is very pleased with the minister's work in that connection. He has asked me on the first possible occasion to extend to the minister his appreciation and sincere thanks for giving attention to this detail.

Before I sit down, Mr. Chairman, I might say man's ability is not always judged by the large brush strokes he paints on the canvas of policy with respect to his department. Very often his ability as an administrator and as a humanitarian is also demonstrated by his attention to minor details and his consideration for the welfare of his fellow human beings.

Mr. MacLean: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that I am grateful for the appreciation of the hon. member's constituent which has been relayed to me through the hon. member. I also want in passing to say that I appreciate the invitation of the hon. member for Gloucester to visit that very important fishing riding. It is not only a very important one but it has a very wide variety of species of fish produced and it is a very historic fishing constituency, one of the most historic on the mainland of Canada. I would say indeed the most important with the possible exception of one in Newfoundland—

Mr. Pickersgill: With the exception of Bonavista-Twillingate.

Mr. MacLean: I made that exception—I said on the mainland of Canada.

Mr. Broome: I do not wish to take very much of the time of the committee because I know the minister is anxious to get to his estimates. However I believe at least one government member from the west coast should say a few words on this most important industry.

Fishing ranks as our fourth industry, enabling something like 18,000 persons directly—so the industry claims—to be employed and also giving employment to some

75,000 persons indirectly. In 1954, and these are according to the industry's authentic figures, the commercial fishing industry of British Columbia was valued at \$69 million. Salmon fishing alone had a value of \$50 million. It is estimated that by using known conservation methods and the new knowledge acquired by biologists that the take in the fishing industry can be doubled in the next 25 years.

This may sound somewhat fantastic but there is the record of what has been done by the international Pacific salmon fisheries commission on the Fraser river which has rehabilitated that river to the point where the production of sockeye salmon has been greatly increased over the output of the last three decades.

The commission however has stated in their report of 1954 that the present production is still only 56 per cent of the average of the peak years, which were from 1910 to 1913. In this year of 1958 the Adams river run, it is estimated, will approach the peak year of 1913. Some 12 million fish will enter the Fraser river; 10 million will be taken and 2 million will escape to the spawning ground near Salmon Arm. In a stretch of river one and a half miles long 2 million fish will be congregated at one time in October of this year. Salmon Arm will be holding a salute to the sockeye salmon which is planned as their centennial project and I suggest that any hon. members who wish to see one of the greatest sights in nature should go to Salmon Arm in October of this year.

That is what could be done all the way, to a more limited extent, up and down the coast. For instance the federal department have a plan at Jones creek whereby fish eggs will be planted so that they will build up the runs of pink salmon in the off years to equal the runs in the on years. The planting of these eggs must be done with due care and regard to the fact that it takes salmon one and a half days to reach this spawning ground and they can only be planted in another stream or spawning ground which will take the mature salmon a day and a half to reach.

There are some 25 or 30 locations up and down the Pacific coast which with a relatively small expenditure could be turned into fine salmon producing streams by means of a certain amount of patrolling to eliminate log jams. The creation of artificial spawning beds in this way means that the fisheries can be dispersed up and down the coast.

Enough has been said about fish versus power. I must, however, agree with the hon. member for Comox-Alberni and the hon. member for Nanaimo that the value of the