

afternoon—that the fishing industry in the Maritime Provinces is possible only because of the market in the United States. It would be hopeless to talk of increasing our domestic markets if we were not able to carry on the fishing business in the large way that we do at the present time, and the extent of the industry is made possible by the fact that the United States is the largest market that we have, and that we export to that country fish valued at millions of dollars. As the hon. member for Queens-Shelburne suggests, I am always pleased to see an industry developed by private initiative; I do not like to see the Government extend aid to any form of industry if it is possible for that industry to make progress by itself. If a substantial increase in the fresh fish export business of the Maritime Provinces could be made by the granting of a subsidy to a line of steamships which would serve a number of ports, I would gladly support any steps taken in that direction. Indirectly that would benefit the consumers of fish in Canada, because it would make it possible to ship fish much more readily and much more cheaply to our home markets. Our catch would be much greater and there would at all times be a surplus which could be satisfactorily disposed of in the home market.

There is nothing further that I desire to say upon the resolution of the hon. member for Digby except that I heartily concur in it, and I trust that some good may come from its reference to the Committee upon Fisheries for their consideration.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE (North Cape Breton and Victoria): Coming from a county that is largely interested in the fish business, I should like to offer a word of commendation to the resolution that has been introduced by the hon. member for Digby (Mr. Jameson). Before saying anything upon that resolution, let me join with my hon. friend the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. A. K. Maclean) in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, upon your elevation to the position which you occupy. I adopt the words, sentiments, hopes and aspirations of the hon. member for Halifax in regard to your elevation to this office, and as to your reflecting honour and dignity upon the position.

I am glad that the hon. member for Digby has brought forward this motion as it gives us an opportunity to discuss the fisheries, which we do not often have; and the subject is well worthy of discussion.

As has been said, one of the first essentials for the carrying on of a successful fishing industry is an efficient system for the collection of the fish into shipping centres and their rapid transportation to markets. It is all very well to talk about having vessels run along the shores of Cape Breton, Guysborough and Halifax counties touching at the different fishing centres, collecting fish and taking it to Halifax for shipment to Boston or New York; but such a system must necessarily be a slow one. I believe that for the rapid collection of fish we must depend on railways. We have now a railway along the shore from Halifax to Yarmouth, and I believe there is one running down the valley to Yarmouth. Trains on these lines collect fish at the various stations and take them to one of these ports, whence they are shipped to Boston or New York. If the few gaps that we have in our railway lines were filled in so that there would be railway connection with every fishing centre, then trains could collect the fish each morning and convey them to Halifax or Yarmouth, whence they could be transported to the American market which, after all, I believe is our natural market for fish.

There are two ways in which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries can greatly assist the fisheries. The first of these is by inducing his colleague the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers) to further improve the harbours along our coasts. These harbours have been greatly improved of late years and our fishermen have thus been benefited; but there is still room for improvement. Owing to the enlargement of our harbours, the fishermen have been enabled to use larger boats and thus to catch much greater quantities of fish. In this way they have been able to attract attention in the Boston market, and large Boston dealers now send agents among our fishermen to buy their fish, which, of course, is of great advantage to our men. The further enlargement and improvement of our harbours would enable our fishermen to better compete with the Americans who go upon the fishing grounds with large vessels, equipped with auxiliary gasoline engines, which they are able to use because of the good harbours in the United States from which they operate. If our fishermen had as good harbours they could employ the same class of boats and thus make greater catches. I would therefore urge very strongly on the minister that he use his influence with the hon. Min-