

the government would be granting money, and part of that money would be used to help bolster up an industry so that it might compete with foreigners who use the same methods. That is, our fishermen will have to use practically the same methods as our competitors in foreign markets are using. Some of those methods are known, and some are unknown.

The government will have to help those who are in need. For instance, at the beginning of a season it would provide assistance by providing salt to take care of the fish which would be taken during the season. In other parts of the country points will be established at which fish will be finally cured to meet the requirements of buyers for foreign markets. In still other sections, the price obtainable on foreign markets would be supplemented in order to bring the fishermen's return up to a point where at least it would equal cost of production, plus a little more for their livelihood.

Mr. NEILL: The information given by the minister is quite useful and appropriate. I have only one or two comments to make, and they are these. The minister says that the government is not dealing with the fresh fish question. I had asked a question about that, but the minister did not answer further than to say that the government was going to do nothing. Fairly extensive machinery would be set up, and it would be just as easy to make it permissible to have that machinery deal with any situation which might arise on the Pacific or Atlantic coasts in connection with fresh fish. It would already have power to deal with salt fish. We are prohibited from discussing the fresh fish situation, because this measure is confined to salt fish. It would be equally powerful if it were used for the purpose indicated. In other words, if it were directed to "fish" it could be used also in connection with fresh fish. Perhaps in years to come that machinery could be used, if necessary.

There is another point upon which I anticipated a statement when I asked my question. It would appear that sooner or later, at some phase of the transaction, this aid will resolve itself into a bonus. I suppose a good deal of this fish might possibly go to the United States. According to my recollection of the United States tariff provisions, there is provision under which if any country—we will say Canada—bonuses the production of any article on which there is a duty going into the United States, the United States government will regard that bonus as a depreciation, so to speak, of the tariff, and

will add such bonus to the tariff. In other words, if the duty on codfish were 3 cents per pound and the Canadian government gave a bonus of one cent per pound to those in our country who catch codfish, automatically the United States tariff would immediately become four cents. In that event the effect of this legislation would be nullified. That is a point on which I should like to have some information.

Mr. MICHAUD: Again I will answer the last question first. No doubt the hon. member had in mind the countervailing clause in the United States tariff which states that if a bounty or a bonus is being paid by a producing country on goods exported to the United States, they will have the right to add to the duty the amount of that bounty. The government is aware of this provision, and we will have to take care of it. There are many factors as between Canada and the United States which will have to be considered in connection with this question. After all, if it is not possible to send into the United States fish caught by the people who are to be helped under the provisions of this measure, then we will have to make an exception. All this has been taken care of in the program which is being elaborated for the board. The board will take care of that, and will make sure that those who export fish to the United States shall not be penalized.

Mr. NEILL: I do not know how they are going to do it.

Mr. MICHAUD: They did it in Nova Scotia last year, and I think we can profit from their experience. With regard to the other matter, having given full consideration to the problem whether or not it would be advisable for the government to take in all the fish business of the country, both domestic and foreign, fresh and processed, we have thought it would not be possible or practicable, and that we should be satisfied with taking care of those who cannot take care of themselves.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I should like to congratulate the minister and the government upon having introduced some measure which would help to alleviate the lot of the fishermen on the Atlantic coast. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Isnor) rather accused the westerners of not taking any interest.

Mr. ISNOR: No.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Well, I thought that was the case; I will have to leave it to *Hansard*. I assure the hon. member that some of us have given a good deal of attention