

*Fisheries Prices Support Act*

in Ottawa between the officials of the fisheries board, the Minister of Fisheries and the Prime Minister. He named the people who were present representing the codfish association of Newfoundland, and pointed out that there were present members of parliament and senators from the salt codfish section of Newfoundland, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

I know that all the Newfoundland members, with the exception of my confrère from St. John's West, and myself, were present. We do not know what went on at that time. The statement in the press, however, suggests—and perhaps the Prime Minister, who is now in the chamber, might make some comment on this—what took place. The newspaper article states that the premier had said:

—that the problem was not one of markets but to find ways and means of obtaining payment for the fish.

He states that the whole situation was thoroughly threshed out at Ottawa. Describing further the conference which took place, he states that a special committee was appointed to represent the five provinces, and meetings were held between that committee and the Minister of Fisheries and his senior officials. Then the article quotes him as follows:

I had the honour to introduce the representatives of Nafel and the salt codfish association to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of Canada, when the problem was discussed with frankness and sympathy.

I can say with assurance that we found both the Minister of Fisheries and the Prime Minister to be well-informed on the situation, and thoroughly up-to-date in their information. I can say with equal assurance that they fully appreciated the situation and that they gave ample evidence of possessing a strong desire to be helpful. We were all very favourably impressed.

The impression I gather from that is that the problems of the salt-codfishing industry of Newfoundland have been solved, at least for this year. Would it be fair to ask the Prime Minister if he could say anything in the matter?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** What I would have to say is that the hon. member's assumption goes farther than anything that I said would justify. I did not say that the codfish problem was solved. I did say that the very best efforts were going to be put forth to solve it, and that there was reason to expect that those efforts might bear fruit.

**Mr. Higgins:** I did not intend to convey the impression that the Prime Minister had said that. But the inference from the premier's statement was to that effect.

**An hon. Member:** No.

[Mr. MacNaught.]

**Mr. Bryce:** May I ask the parliamentary assistant if he can tell the committee how much money has been paid out under the Fisheries Prices Support Act since it went into operation, in each of the years. Would he also tell us how those expenditures have been divided as between the Atlantic coast, the prairies and the Pacific coast? Would he also tell us how the surplus was disposed of and how much money he was able to get from the disposal of that surplus.

**Mr. MacNaught:** I have not the information with me. However, I shall read the question in *Hansard* and have the information for the hon. member when we are in committee on the bill.

**Mr. Bryce:** That will be satisfactory.

**Mr. Noseworthy:** Is the government considering having the manufacturers of margarine use fish oils, whale and seal oils? I understand a representative of the department was in Toronto some weeks ago to discuss the matter with the margarine manufacturers, with a view to inducing them to use those oils in place of some of the vegetable oils they are now using. What was the result of that interview?

**Mr. MacNaught:** I am informed that all the seal oil for 1949 has been disposed of satisfactorily, and that it is too early in 1950 to make any estimate as to what we are going to do with the 1950 product.

**Mr. Higgins:** Is it not a fact that it was solved at such a late date that it has the effect of more or less making this a token seal fishery this year?

**Mr. MacNaught:** The information I have was that it was sold satisfactorily.

**Mr. Higgins:** But within the last three weeks.

**Mr. MacNaught:** Yes.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

**Mr. Fournier, Hull (for Mr. Mayhew)** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 54, to amend the Fisheries Prices Support Act, 1944.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE

CONSOLIDATION AND REVISION OF EXISTING LEGISLATION—ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENCE—CODE OF SERVICE, DISCIPLINE, ETC.

**Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence)** moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to revise and consolidate in one act the several acts respecting