

Supply—Fisheries

encouraging. He has taken hold of a department with which he was unfamiliar when he started. Today he exhibited a good grasp of the subject, to the extent that I feel he has disarmed practically everyone who had some criticism to make. While the minister is entitled to all the credit we can give him, we must not forget that the minister cannot do the job alone. A good minister, and a smart minister, will always have smart men around him. The smart men around him, like the deputy minister, cannot do very much either unless the minister has some intelligence and some flexibility. It appears that the fisheries department is now fortunate in having that combination. They have a team that is working. There is no doubt but that the whole industry will benefit from this.

Listening to the last speaker I was struck by the fine speech he made and I want to agree with him about expanding the Unemployment Insurance Act to take in the fishing industry. We have had this subject up in the house on a good many occasions. The Minister of Fisheries does not have jurisdiction in so far as that question is concerned, but he could use his good offices and his persuasive powers upon the Minister of Labour to make sure consideration is given to bringing these fishermen under the Unemployment Insurance Act. The last speaker made a good survey of the fisheries in Newfoundland. He said he could look forward with a great deal of optimism to the future. I do not want to be a wet blanket but it is going to take more than optimism to solve the problem for the fishing industry.

For the past number of years the fishing industry has been going through much the same change as most industries in Canada, and that is a technological change. The fishing industry is becoming a mechanized industry, and that is true all over the world. There is more and more fish being produced. Before the minister puts his estimates in final form, there is something I should like him to look at and comment upon.

A good deal of our fish production goes to the United States. This evening's news indicates that the United States is giving authority to those responsible for imports and exports to set up quotas and/or tariffs on fish. Well, it is going to take more than optimism to get around that. If a country that takes a large share of our fish is arriving at the conclusion that it can solve its problems by fencing itself in, by putting up tariffs and embargoes against imports from this country, such action of course can be followed only by retaliation and chaos so far as international marketing is concerned.

[Mr. Gillis.]

Before the conclusion of his estimates I would ask the minister to take a look at the proposals made within the last few hours by the United States to see how it will affect our industry in Canada. I am concerned about this because a large share of the fish caught on the east coast goes to the United States. While my own home town is recognized as a mining town, there is also at that point a large sword fishing industry valued at about \$2 million a year. Almost the total catch goes to the United States. I am wondering if the attempt in that country to fence themselves in, so far as fish, lead, zinc and other commodities are concerned, will militate against the continuing of the industry as it is today, to say nothing about its expansion.

That was my principal reason for speaking at this time. In the final analysis the minister and his department are up against the question of world trade. While he has done an excellent job in making the people of Canada fish conscious, more can be done. I believe it is correct to say that more information has been disseminated among the people of Canada from his department during the past couple of years than has ever happened before in the history of this country. That has been good work, and there can be no doubt that while we wish to build up our own home market we depend largely upon the export market.

With trends as we see them today there is a possibility that we may run into some difficulties. Many valuable things have been done by the Department of Fisheries during the minister's term of office. The finalizing of the agreements in the Pacific and the Atlantic, and the setting up of these commissions were things that were badly needed. It was also a great honour for Canada when the deputy minister of fisheries was selected to head one of these commissions. I believe this is an indication that perhaps Canada is paying more practical attention to the problem than any other country. I believe it is generally recognized and appreciated that our deputy minister is just about the last word, so far as a knowledge of fisheries is concerned. Of course there is a very good reason for that: He got most of his practical education from the standpoint of administration in Nova Scotia. Then, like many others from that part of the country, he has had to go far afield to demonstrate his ability. A good job is being done in formulating the kind of organization that not only protects the industry and assists in marketing, but also adds to the general education on the subject. The machinery is in good hands, and it is clear that some planning is being made in connection with the whole question of production and marketing, as well as technological changes, and all that sort of thing.