

The oyster catch in Canada totalled 21,366 barrels as compared with 21,285 barrels in 1927, but there was a decline in the scallop catch from 38,530 barrels in 1927 to 25,834 barrels last year—a condition attributable chiefly to a lower price level. Exploratory and observational work in connection with scallop and oyster resources were carried on in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia during the present year by officers of the fisheries branch. At the Halifax experimental station experiments in connection with the rapid freezing process were carried on and the results are such that it is confidently believed that the use of this process will greatly increase the success and prosperity of Atlantic coast fishermen and serve as well the interests of the consumer in the inland areas of Canada.

Departmental broadcasting of weather, ice and bait reports continued to be of great value to the fishermen. Extension of the fish collection service of the branch on certain parts of the Atlantic coast proved very helpful to the fishermen in ensuring them a steady and immediate market for their fish and in enabling them to have more time to devote to the actual process of fishing.

We sincerely hope the government may see its way clear to assist the fishermen in our province in the same way as other parts of the maritimes.

Speaking particularly of our own province we may state that conditions have been moderately good and business fairly well maintained. Our farmers received somewhat of a set-back owing to the low price of potatoes. To those who have the faith and courage to stand up in the face of adversity, however, we have no doubt that over a period of three or four years they will be able to market their crops at an average price. Our farmers are hard working, systematic and energetic and are not easily discouraged.

The citizens of my province are deeply grateful to the Postmaster General (Mr. Veniot) and his very efficient associates for the carrying on of an air mail service between Moncton and Charlottetown for some time past. Weather conditions are sometimes very trying. I understand the company operating gives an excellent service.

The Canadian National railway line to Murray harbour is being standardized this year and in order to complete the necessary work without interfering with traffic, a connecting link will be built from a point on this particular line to another point on what is known as the eastern line. We have been asking for standardization of the road for some

[Mr. Jenkins.]

years past. It is the only remaining portion of narrow gauge road on the system and we are naturally pleased to see the improvement made. This will not mean any increase in freight rates owing to the longer haul, because the rate will be given on the shortest distance between any two given points. In our province several short branch lines have been asked for and we hope when the system is completely standardized and other necessary work completed that these requests may be given favourable consideration. I shall call this to the attention of the Minister of Railways (Mr. Dunning) when the estimates are up for discussion.

Fox farming, as you are all aware, is a profitable industry in our particular province and brings in a very large revenue. I have not the exact figures for 1928, but the net results would compare favourably, I think, with those of any previous year. Our pelts command the highest prices in the markets of the world, and breeding stock is shipped to many countries. To show the superior value of our silver black foxes one has only to read the last issue of the American magazine containing an article on fox ranching, in which it is stated that the injection of new blood from Prince Edward Island ranches has been a very important factor in the building up of a better quality of foxes in the American ranches.

A large amount of money has been brought into the province due to the export of butter, cheese and eggs, and in the latter line we are very fortunate in having a splendid cooperative company in the province, operated by the farmers themselves. This company has had a very successful season and is doing exceptionally fine work in increasing not only the quantity but the quality of the product as well.

I would like to refer, Mr. Speaker, to one further matter before I take my seat. There is in our opinion a splendid opening for the building of a new hotel in Charlottetown, the capital of the province. The largest hotel at this particular point was burned early in the year. It is understood that Sir Henry Thornton has asked an expert to go over the situation and bring in a report. We sincerely hope it may be favourable. There is every opportunity to make such a hotel pay because we have the climate which is suitable for tourist business. There is splendid sea and surf bathing, good fishing, plenty of sunshine, no fog—with rare exceptions—and in fact everything conducive to the building up of perfect health. There is no place to be