

Supply—Fisheries

is of vital importance to the fisheries on the west coast, with particular reference to the salmon fisheries of the Fraser, which is the most important fish river in British Columbia. In order to ensure that commercial hydro-electric companies, such as the B.C. Electric Company, and other industries in this field, are not successful in their ventures to use the Fraser river for this dual purpose, they should not be allowed to issue propaganda under the guise of studies which indicate the river can be successfully used for that purpose.

Mr. Chairman, I think perhaps I should leave the subject at that, with the hope that other hon. members interested in it will place their remarks on the record.

Mr. Batten: Mr. Chairman, up to this point in the discussion of these estimates we have heard a great many references to many phases of Canada's fisheries. I should like to begin by making a few references to research in the fishing industry.

The minister in making his statement of May 11 referred at some length to the research activities of his department, and stated that across the country important research projects were going forward as a basis for expansion and development of our fisheries. I think everyone knows that Canada is not a country which is noted for the amount of research being done, particularly in view of the fact that this is a country with many valuable natural resources. This is as true of the fishing industry, as it is true of every segment of our economy. Research projects in the fishing industry now in progress are indeed important and worth while. However, I believe that more intensive work is required if Canada is to remain in a competitive position in the northwest Atlantic region.

In the province of Newfoundland limited fisheries research has been going on for almost three quarters of a century. Over 70 years ago Adolph Neilson initiated a form of fisheries research which was continued up to and during the 1930's. Thereafter, Harold Thompson commenced a project financed jointly by the governments of the United Kingdom and Newfoundland. A good deal of worth-while information resulted from this research and, over the years, some of the information has been used to great advantage.

The present Newfoundland research committee, an organization which is over seven years old, paid special attention to the marine resources of Newfoundland at its meeting held during the early part of April of this year. In my opinion this committee is making a contribution to the fund of information concerning the fishing industry as a whole. However, what is needed is a pooling of the research facilities of both the federal and

provincial governments in order to define a new approach to the problems of production, processing, marketing and conservation.

There was a time when the fishery of Newfoundland was the foremost industry of the province. Over the years other industries have come into being and have expanded to such an extent as to replace fisheries, in terms of employment, or revenue and maybe both. The activities of the newsprint industry, as well as of mining production, have placed the fishing industry in a relatively less important position. Let me hasten to add, however, that the industry, for a long time to come, will be an important source of employment for many of the Newfoundland people.

The marine resources of Newfoundland represent a great part of the economy of that province. The part it represents could be increased, but this will be accomplished only as a result of a co-ordinated policy of research and expansion, and such a policy will cost money. But improvement in any industry in any part of Canada adds to the national economic picture. Central Canada is not so far removed from the economic success or failure of the fishing industry in Newfoundland. When one considers the fact that the province of Newfoundland buys from the Canadian mainland commodities having an annual value of \$250 million it becomes obvious that a large proportion of our dollar added to the value of fishery products provides labour for workers in other parts of Canada. In view of this I submit that research in the fishing industry in Newfoundland should be intensified and conducted by the Newfoundland research committee, the fisheries research board and the national research council.

The demands for research services are unlikely to decrease in the years that lie immediately ahead. There are not only pressures as a result of the domestic picture, but also demands owing to Canada's responsibilities under international agreements. Indeed, there are even local problems to which attention should be given. For example, in my own area I should like to know how extensive is the source of halibut off the west coast of Newfoundland. If there are sufficient quantities, how best can this type of fish be harvested, processed and marketed? Another problem is the need to improve methods to transport live lobsters to market. In the area from Bonne bay to St. John's bay on the west coast of Newfoundland—and I used this area as an example—about three quarters of a million pounds of lobster were marketed last year. In 1960, only 72.5 per cent of the quantity shipped arrived at the point of delivery in first class condition. The remainder was made up of 6.3 per cent of culls; 14.2 per cent were weak; and 17 per cent unsaleable.