

Supply—Fisheries

Mr. Stuart (Charlotte): I have heard that for five elections but I hope to be back. I can assure my hon. friend that I will do everything possible to get back. There is no question about that. To show the unreasonable things that are being said in the Tory press today, I am going to read a short portion from an editorial that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on January 6, just a day or two ago. It says this:

There is much we can do to retaliate when the United States kicks us around in this manner.

We can, merely to take one instance, impose 15 per cent export tax on the newsprint we ship to that country—or on the nickel, or the uranium, or the iron ore. Such stern measures are not yet in order, are not yet even to be considered. But if every United States industry that runs into a little bit of recession is to lobby successfully in Washington for restriction upon our goods, we will have to be stern; and we could do worse than prepare our minds for that.

I believe this to be one of the most irresponsible childish statements I have ever read in any periodical in Canada coming at a time when 700,000 are unemployed, and a great portion of them in the pulp and paper industry. The *Toronto Globe and Mail* comes out with a statement like this and then we expect to maintain friendly relations with our friends over the border. I have lived on the United States border for a lifetime. There are not any people in the world that I would rather have living to the south of us than the Yankees. We never had any better friends than those people to the south of us. One of the greatest friends this country ever had outside of our own country was the late President Roosevelt. We never had a better one. We must maintain these friendly relations. There may be some advantage for the two central provinces in tariff restrictions and manoeuvring with trade, but my mind goes back to 1930—

An hon. Member: Who is talking about tariff restrictions?

Mr. Stuart (Charlotte): I am talking about tariff restrictions, and I am talking about the mess we are in in this country today. That is exactly the way in which I describe it. It is nothing more or less than a mess. That is what I am talking about.

Mr. Argue: It is a real mess.

Mr. Stuart (Charlotte): That is what I have been talking about. From 1935 to 1952 this country enjoyed the greatest prosperity and expansion of any country in the world. I think you have all got to admit that. Regardless of this accomplishment, however, approximately 350,000 Canadians have chosen to leave this country and live in the United States. Why would they leave this country and go to the United

States, 350,000 of them in that time? I can assure you that this trend will be much greater if tariff restrictions imposed by that government in any way interfere with the fishing industry in the Atlantic provinces because there is nothing left for those people to do. If anything happens to the fishing industry they must seek employment in some other part of this continent and the only place that can be found is the United States. I hope that we never lose sight of the fact that the United States is our warmest neighbour and always has been, our greatest market, our leading supplier of goods and services, and that we sell a great deal to that country.

I just want to leave these thoughts with the minister because I can assure him that in the maritime provinces there is nothing that is being viewed today with more seriousness than the trade situation between the maritime provinces and the United States. As I say, every maritime member here knows that what I have said is true, that if there is an imposition of tariffs by the United States on the fishing industry the economy of the maritimes will be at the lowest ebb of any time in its history.

I now want to deal with a matter of a local nature. In doing so I realize that the opinions that I shall express will not be endorsed by every citizen in my county and perhaps will not be viewed in a friendly way by the Department of Fisheries. Nevertheless it is one to which I have given a lot of thought and I believe the time has come when something should be done in this regard.

We have in Charlotte county five rivers where Atlantic salmon may be found each and every year. These rivers are New River, Pocologan river, the Magaguadavic river, the Digdeguash river and the St. Croix river.

The federal Department of Fisheries has maintained guardians on these rivers for one purpose only, to prohibit the catching of this fish in any manner other than with a fly or a lure or a floating bait; no commercial fishing in other words. While thousands and thousands of these salmon frequent our rivers, particularly the Magaguadavic and the Digdeguash rivers, these salmon have never been of any value commercially to the citizens of Charlotte county within my memory and they have never been of any value from the point of view of sports fishing.

I do believe these fish could be the greatest attraction imaginable in so far as the tourist business is concerned and they could be responsible for an enormous source of revenue. I wonder why over the years we have protected these salmon in the rivers I have