

matter of fact, it closed automatically because they were not able to fish. Some years they are at a much greater disadvantage than in others, because the winter season sets in earlier, and ice conditions develop and they are not able to fish.

This change of season was made without consultation and without the consent of anybody engaged in fishing in these waters. They had made their plans to do their fishing as in previous years and had made arrangements for marketing their catch, and then the season was changed. I can understand the desire of the department, other things being equal, to have a uniform season; but in view of the fact that those who had studied the situation for that section had granted an earlier season and that it had been in effect for many years, it seems a great hardship to the smelt fishermen in that area that the earlier season has been denied them in the last few years. They have petitioned the department, and I have communicated with the department with respect to their request asking that the old season be restored. I wish to bring this matter to the attention of the minister again and to ask him to review the situation and see if the department cannot again restore the season for smelt fishing in that section.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): I understand that there has been a controversy for many years as to when the season for smelt should open. If it is opened too soon when the weather is still warm the smelt are not preserved. The date was fixed later than the hon. gentleman would like principally because of that very fact.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): The fishermen themselves should be the best judge of that. They surely would not want to catch fish if they could not preserve their product. It is not a large output, and to a man they want the old season restored.

Mr. NEILL: I just wish to ask for a little information, and I will not stray away from the item before us, Mr. Chairman. It is for the development of the deep sea fisheries and the demand for fish. On page 82 of the estimates the details are given. It says that there are two demonstrators and lecturers at \$2,400 each. I should like to know what they demonstrate what they lecture about, and to whom they lecture and demonstrate, and where. I do not mean the name of each little hamlet or town or village in which they demonstrate or lecture, but do they do it in country places or in the cities, telling housewives how to prepare fish for lunch? Where do they do the demonstrating and in what provinces? Then, underneath that it says that

\$8,840 is required for temporary assistance. That is nearly double what the demonstrators and lecturers are getting. Then wages amount to \$1,560.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): If my hon. friend will pardon me, there is nothing for temporary assistance this year. The \$8,840 was for last year.

Mr. NEILL: I was looking at the wrong book. Apparently there is nothing for temporary assistance this year. But there is \$1,560 for wages.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): And there is an item for sundries.

Mr. NEILL: I am coming to that in a moment. The next item is cost of living bonus and other pay-list items, \$400. That is something along the same line. Then there is an item of \$5,000 for printing and stationery. You can get a lot of printing done for \$5,000. May I ask the minister—I am not attacking this item, I am merely asking for information because I wondered what this was for—what is the nature of the printing done and to whom is it distributed? Then there is an item for sundries, \$13,780. That has gone up about \$3,000 since last year. That amounts to about thirty-two per cent of the total vote. When you ask your wife to keep bookkeeping accounts her biggest entry is under sundries because she does not know how else to make the books balance. This amount of \$13,780 does seem large in proportion to the total vote. The minister will no doubt be able to explain it.

One other thing. As I said, this vote is for the development of the deep sea fisheries and the demand for fish. I would call to the attention of my hon. friends to my left and of the minister that the deep sea fisheries of Canada extend to more than one coast. There is a place called the Pacific ocean, where there are deep sea fisheries which need extending. How much of this is to be spent on the Pacific coast? Is any portion of it? If not, why not? If the minister will answer these simple questions I shall at least be satisfied for to-night.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): The main purpose of the demonstrators and lecturers is to demonstrate and supply information and literature on fisheries, also to provide departmental advertising in magazines and fisheries journals. There are also a number of small miscellaneous services for the development of deep sea fisheries. The demonstrators go almost everywhere in Canada, meeting women's circles and explaining to them how to cook fish properly and make it as palatable as possible.