

*Atlantic Development Board Act*

will soon be established. The area development agency, as I conceive it, is an agency for the promotion of actual, individual industries in areas in Canada in which there is a labour surplus and where there is some prospect of industry being successful. I would put Pictou county very high on that list. As the hon. member knows, I mentioned it a good many times when I was on the other side of the house. I feel that Pictou county and the Cape Breton area are two areas in which we should make a Herculean effort to get new industries established.

It is quite obvious, I believe, that the area development agency is going to operate all over Canada. This does not mean it is going to operate in places where it is not needed. However, in those areas where a lift to the economy is needed industrially, it will operate I assume, on the same principles everywhere. The Atlantic development board has to do something that I conceive to be rather more fundamental. I do not see it dealing directly with this or that individual industry, promoting an industry. This, I think, would be the function of the minister of industry and his department. I think the Atlantic development board is going to be concerned primarily with improving transportation, improving power and other facilities which would make an area more attractive to industry.

In this context I hope—and I have discussed this already with the president of Industrial Estates, and more recently with the premier of Nova Scotia—there will be the closest possible co-operation with Industrial Estates in Nova Scotia, with the department of economic development in Newfoundland and with similar agencies in the other two provinces. I feel that the Atlantic development board must, if it is to be successful, co-operate with all the agencies for development, both provincial and federal, that exist. I agree with the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton that the function the board already has of promoting all kinds of economic development is more important than the spending of the fund. Of the two, it is the more important. I do believe the fund is also needed because there are projects, as every hon. member can see for himself, that are not undertaken directly for a specific industry. I am not going to attempt to describe what they are because I know what would happen if I did; I would be accused of leaving this one or that one out or favouring one, and just get myself into a lot of unnecessary trouble and unnecessary debate. I refer to the things that will make it possible for an industry to flourish in an area rather than stagnate; it is that kind of thing I mean.

There were some questions raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacInnis). Many of the things he said were irrelevant, but he said some quite sensible things, too. One of the things he said was that he welcomed the increased membership in the board. I am glad he does, and for the reason he gave. We want to make the board more representative of the economic character of the whole region than it is at the moment. This is in no way a reflection on the existing members of the board.

The hon. member asked me about the Chignecto canal. The Chignecto project is far too big a project to be undertaken by the Atlantic development board. The investigation of it could be done by the board, and I am not thinking now of the canal but of the whole power-canal complex. This is something that the board may very well do. However, if a project as large as that was going to be undertaken, I think it would be done in the same way as the Canso causeway was done, in the same way as I conceive the Prince Edward Island causeway would be done, and in the same way as any other big project is done, that is by bringing forward a special measure for that purpose or including an item in the estimates of one department, as was done in the case of the Atlantic power development. The Chignecto project is not the kind of thing the Atlantic development board would do out of the capital fund. If it did, it would mortgage all the fund for one project, or practically for one project, and that is not the idea at all. If one of these really big projects is promoted by the board, then the government will have to see it initiated and piloted through parliament in some other way.

So far as fishery development is concerned, it is primarily in the hands of the federal Department of Fisheries and the departments of fisheries of the provinces. We have in the present Minister of Fisheries a man who has spent his whole lifetime in the fishery and knows perhaps more about the fishing industry than anybody who has ever occupied the portfolio he holds. I do not think he is going to need the Atlantic development board to do more than give him encouragement to do the things we all believe he is going to do anyway.

I agree with the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacInnis), and the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Stewart) who spoke at the resolution stage, that it is not just in Newfoundland that the fishery needs to be modernized and brought into the second half of the twentieth century. We want the fishery to develop. We want it to provide more employment through all the Atlantic region, and we want all the historic