

government intervention will, I have no doubt, bring about a cure. These fishermen should not be getting less than six cents a pound for prime green codfish at to-day's prices, which is nearly double what the fishermen are getting to-day. The minister may say that that price is out of line. I confess I do not know because I have not had time to get any figures. But his department must have them.

Fish are in great demand to-day. Fresh fish in the United States, where there is no ceiling at all, has gone sky-high, and there is great competition to obtain these fish, in one case for the fresh fish market and in the other for the cured fish market. There is not enough supply to go around to satisfy the demand. This ought to be the time when the fisherman can get in his harvest. He has the opportunity only about once in every five years. I suggest to the minister; I solicit the minister, to make inquiry and to do something about this matter. I think I have laid sufficient basis upon which he can see that there is something radically wrong with respect to the operation of this company. In the United States it is one of the biggest companies there. If they were establishing themselves at this time in New Brunswick they would not want any government intervention. They came in there, of course, at a difficult time, and I never criticized very much the fact that they were given a subsidy although I remember criticizing in this house three or four years ago the magnitude of the subsidy given and the use that was made of it. But that is past history and I am not going to rehash any part of it. May I ask the minister to approach this matter as sympathetically as possible and to do something. That is what I want. Let us see if something cannot be done for these men.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): Mr. Chairman, some time in 1939 a subsidy of half a million dollars was granted to the three maritime provinces, and the New Brunswick government granted a subsidy of \$75,000 to Gorton Pew. The province was free to do anything reasonable out of the amount of subsidy granted. This government had nothing to do with the grant of this \$75,000 to Gorton Pew.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The country's money went to them.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): Yes, but I understand that the maritimes also put up some money to make up a certain total by which they tried to alleviate the difficulties of the fishermen. On the Gaspé coast the provincial government has built thirty-four

refrigeration plants, which at that time was thought to be a very big plan involving a large vote of money. The plants were built during the depression years and the fishermen have benefited from these plants to a large extent, especially during the last few years.

The fishermen are paying, as the hon. member indicates, a nominal amount to have their bait and their fish stored in these refrigeration plants. We have nothing similar in the maritime provinces, except that an order in council authorizes us to advance to a group of fishermen seventy-five per cent of the cost of bait freezer provided that the plant design is approved by the department. The cost of these bait freezers runs between three and four thousand dollars apiece. We have had one request this year from the Lameque Fishermen's Association and we are granting them \$4,000.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is on the island.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): Yes. A few years ago, in 1938, the sum of \$36,000 was granted to the Jamieson company at Canso and a refrigeration plant was built there. By virtue of the contract between the Jamieson company and the government a certain amount of space has to be made available in the plant for the fishermen.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Has the Lameque plant been built?

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): No; we granted the subsidy only three or four weeks ago.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The plant will not be in operation this year.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): No. Apart from that we have no other plants. We want to benefit from the experience of the Quebec provincial government. At present our engineers in conjunction with the officials of the Nova Scotia fisheries department are looking around and preparing plans for refrigeration plants. We do not intend to make it merely a refrigeration plant as in Gaspé. We would like to have what is called a one-unit fishing plant, including refrigeration, a drying plant, and a smoking plant.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): A processing plant.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): Yes, processing in more than one form. It is our policy to do that if it is possible and even to ask for a certain amount in the supplementary estimates, because the engineers' plans might be ready within a very short time and we should like to do it as quickly as possible. We shall build three or four or five of these plants in