

Commercial Fisheries Development

pretty hard to beat the Pacific salmon when it comes to quality, when it comes to size and when you judge it by any other criteria. Let me say again in closing that regardless of where the problems of the fishing industry may lie, no matter what part of Canada we are speaking of, we are vitally interested in and will support every measure designed to meet the problems in this industry and in our Canadian economy.

Mr. Kindt: Mr. Chairman, I should like the minister to clarify one or two points in connection with this matter before he goes on, or before we pass this bill. What I have in mind relates to the Northwest Territories. The minister may have made a statement on this before I came into the house. In the north and in the Great Slave lake area there is an industry started in respect of the char fishery, and which requires some help from the Department of Fisheries. I should like to see efforts made to button up projects with the provinces; but there is no mention in this bill about the Northwest Territories.

I am wondering where the fishermen in the Northwest Territories stand in respect of the proposed activities envisaged under this particular bill. Although it is expensive, the people of the Great Slave lake area are able to fly out their fish, and can command a good price on the New York market and in the markets of some of the larger centres. I should like to have from the minister his views with regard to co-operating with the areas which are not formed into provinces, such as the Northwest Territories and perhaps the Yukon territory.

• (9:40 p.m.)

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to take much of the time of the committee, but I am interested in this bill as I realize that when it is adopted it will present an opportunity for the government to do something for the commercial and sport fishing industries of Canada. If it seizes that opportunity I can envisage great advantages forthcoming to various areas in addition to our coastline and maritime regions.

I am not one of those fellows who gets married to every passing whim and fancy that attracts popular sympathy, because I realize that any member who does that will find himself a widower once a week. What I want to say is based on the good common sense of the people I have the honour of representing, who have given some study to this question.

[Mr. Patterson.]

It was very pleasing to hear some members, including the minister, indicate that this is more or less an ARDA fisheries program carried over to meet the fisheries situation which now exists in Canada. I was very pleased to hear the minister say on several occasions that this program will also cover sport fisheries in this country, which at the present time can also be strictly termed as commercial fisheries.

I rise to bring particularly to the attention of the minister a subject I have mentioned once or twice before in this house during the last few years, and relate it to the opportunity that is being provided the minister, his department and his officials to restore the damaged fisheries in the Kootenay and Columbia river areas as a result of the construction of dams under the Columbia river treaty. The minister may be interested to know that the building of these dams will flood in total 135,400 acres of the Columbia valley region. Of particular interest at the present time is the 24,700 acres that will be flooded on the main stem of the Columbia and the Arrow lakes, 10,400 acres of which is in the Lardeau valley, the spawning ground of the Kokanee. A large number of Kokanee are spawned there every year.

The Arrow lakes and Columbia river area from the international boundary to Revelstoke has always provided excellent fishing grounds for residents and tourists, particularly for Kamloops trout, Dolly Varden, lake trout, silver trout and other trout species.

The people of the area which I have the honour to represent are very concerned about this damage to a very important industry, and there is no question that there is going to be immense damage done to the natural fishing industry in this region. On that account the B.C. Federation of Fish, Rod and Gun Clubs of the area, chambers of commerce, farmers' and women's institutes and, in fact, the general public and the tourist industry are all very concerned that action should be taken by both the federal and provincial governments to do all that is possible to restore this industry.

In this regard I should like to quote briefly from one or two newspaper articles I have before me. Quite recently there was a meeting held in the district during which this subject was discussed. It may be of interest to the minister to know that the Arrow lakes will rise 69 feet, and two thirds of the spawning area will be lost. The Duncan dam is sitting on 68 per cent of the Kokanee