

Lunenburg schooners. What difference would that make in the general situation? Nine schooners do the work of three trawlers. The crew is practically the same. You have seventy-five men working on three trawlers, or 225 men working on nine schooners. So you have a net increase in employment of 150 men. I do not think there is any informed person in Nova Scotia who thinks that a change would make any difference to anybody except the 150 men, and such business as might be made by the building of the schooners. It is purely an issue between the schooners and the trawlers.

All these poor fishermen on the long shoreline from Halifax east are unaffected except in two possible ways. Let us assume that the company are right when they say that they could not with schooners keep up a steady supply of fresh fish for the Montreal market, day by day, as they are able to do with trawlers, because the trawlers can plough through storms and all kinds of weather and bring the fish to Halifax, but the schooners, while they can go out in all weathers cannot fish in all weathers, because the fishing is not done from the schooners, it is done from the small boats or dories. If there is a storm for five or six days the men have to stay in the schooners; they cannot go out and fish at all. That is the reason the Maritime National Fish company every year make these representations to the government, at length, under oath, that there are long periods in the winter when they could not get fish from the schooners, while they are able to get them with the trawlers.

Let us assume that they are right when they say that the cancellation of the trawler licences means that they could not supply the fresh fish market, or would have to try to run in some frozen fish; is that not going to hurt the whole fishing industry of Nova Scotia? Is not anything that causes a loss of markets or gives a blow to the market, antagonizes their consumers, the wholesalers and retailers who buy from them, going to have a serious effect on the whole fishing industry? My hon. friend says, "Let us try it; let us see whether the market is lost." My hon. friend must know that when you lose a market, you do not get it back very easily. This market has been built up over the last twenty-five or thirty years; you cannot thus cavalierly experiment with established connections in this way unless you are pretty sure you are right. I grant at once that if the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud) is satisfied that these allegations are untrue; that these affidavits are perjured; that there are not long periods during the winter months when schooners and

dories could not supply the fresh fish that is required for the market; if he is satisfied with those things, he has to refuse to renew the licences. That is the issue, and that is the basis on which he has given his decision the last two or three years.

I started to say what the effect on the fishermen might be. That is one effect it would have on the fishing industry of Nova Scotia as a whole. There is another.

Mr. STEVENS: Will the minister permit a question?

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes.

Mr. STEVENS: Frozen fresh fish would not be affected in the way in which the minister has just intimated?

Mr. ILSLEY: No.

Mr. STEVENS: And a very large proportion of the fish is frozen?

Mr. ILSLEY: Oh, yes.

Mr. STEVENS: And could be marketed in those periods when fresh fish is not available?

Mr. ILSLEY: I gave the figures; between fifty and sixty per cent of the output of the Maritime National Fish company is fresh fish; and that is a great deal of fish.

Just let me continue. I had a train of thought, but I get led away from it by these interruptions, and for some reason or another I find it hard to get back to it again to-day. The second point I was going to make was that the Minister of Fisheries, this minister who, we are told, has not done anything for the inshore fishermen of Nova Scotia, within the last year attached a condition to the granting of these licences, that condition being that the Maritime National Fish company must purchase all the fish that was offered from Halifax to Richmond. That is the part of the coast which needs help. The condition was that the company must purchase all this fish at Halifax prices, and provision was made for a collection service to deliver the fish there. The company have carried out that undertaking. Hon. gentlemen might say, "Ah, well, why not make them do that anyway, whether or not they have trawlers?" Well, we have no control over this corporation, which, if I am not mistaken, is provincially incorporated. This is practically the only control this government has; that is, it can stipulate as a condition of the granting of these licences that they treat the inshore fishermen in a certain way, and as a matter of fact that is what has happened. Every year they purchase more hook-and-line fish than they catch in their trawlers. I have not the latest figures, perhaps the Minister of Fisheries can give them later