

right honourable friend the leader opposite (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) moved that the preamble be declared not proven. That was an attack upon the very essence of the Bill. Whether he will take similar action in the course of this debate, I do not know. If he votes for the amendment, the implication will be that he sees some merit in the Bill and desires to make it more meritorious. The object of the amendment seems to be a change in only the application of the measure. If no attack is made here upon the principle of the Bill, I shall feel that the Senate approves of that principle, which is the giving of assistance to the 20,000 Maritime fishermen who, as was said by my honourable friend from Pictou (Hon. Mr. Tanner), are on their uppers.

I wonder why my honourable friend has not proceeded otherwise. He could have moved that the Bill be not now read a third time, but be amended in such and such particulars. We have not the text of his amendments. He asks that the Bill be returned to the Committee on Banking and Commerce. We could have a far more illuminating debate on the value of his amendments if we had them before us. Of course, he could withdraw his motion, and, since he feels that important amendments should be made, he might submit them to the House.

I need not repeat what I said yesterday. The purpose of this Bill is to come to the help of the fisherman. That is its very basis and essence. My honourable friend fears, because the word "exporter" appears in the Bill, that the fisherman is not sufficiently protected and may to a certain extent lose his advantage by the bonus being divided between him and the exporter. But we did not need to discuss the Bill in our committee this morning to discover its intent. Paragraph (d) of the interpretation clause defines "exporter" and indicates clearly who is to be the beneficiary under this proposed legislation. Let me quote the paragraph:

"Exporter" means a fisherman or co-operative group of fishermen or any other person owning fish which is afterwards exported in a salted state, whether dried, boneless, pickle cured or otherwise processed.

It will be observed that the fisherman who goes to sea and brings back his catch is an "exporter," and he is an exporter because more than nine-tenths of his fish is dried and salted for export.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: Mr. Cowan said that in Nova Scotia the fisherman sells his fish to the merchant, and therefore he is not an exporter.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes; but he is an exporter under this Bill.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Oh, yes. My honourable friend will notice that "exporter" is defined to mean "a fisherman or co-operative group of fishermen." So a co-operative association of fishermen can attend to the processing and marketing of their fish for export. It must not be forgotten that last year everyone was asking what could be done for the unfortunate fisherman. We have all desired legislation to empower the Government to rescue him from his dire distress, and this Bill crystallizes that desire.

What are the duties of the board to be constituted under this Bill? They are set out in section 5:

The Board shall

(a) investigate and report to the Minister upon the marketing of salt fish in the export trade and explore all possibilities of opening up new marketing outlets;

(b) devise and recommend to the Minister a plan, or plans, which may be adopted for the orderly marketing of fish, salt or to be salted, with a view to improving conditions and bringing greater returns to the primary producer and exporter.

The "primary producer" is the fisherman.

The assistance to be given to the fisherman will at times be direct. For instance, by section 6 the board may advance to the fisherman a certain percentage of the value of his catch. At present he may have to wait three, six and sometimes twelve months or more before he receives a cent for his hard work, since the merchant defers payment until he gets a remittance from his purchaser in the foreign market. One virtue of the Bill is that the benefit goes direct to the producer.

Of course, on the principle of being more loyal than the King, one may say, "I want to be certain the fisherman will not be forgotten." I reply, this Bill is introduced for the sole purpose of assisting the fisherman—the producer. I do not deny that a Bill which deals with a difficult subject can be improved. After all, this is an experiment. But it is an experiment in the right direction, and I am glad that the Senate appears to be unanimous in accepting the principle of the Bill.

My honourable friend says, "Let us make sure that the fishermen shall get the full bonus, whatever it may be." In order that we may deal with this very point, I should like to see the text of the amendment which he intends to bring before the committee.