

*Supply—Fisheries*

that the Minister of Public Works is going along and we believe that he will do a good job. There was a time when we used a lot of Spanish salt to salt our fish. When I was a boy it was a common sight to see barques, brigantines and other vessels, some of which had been built in Wales at Portmadoc, coming into port with cargoes of salt from Cadiz in Spain and from Cagliari in Italy, but today we get a lot of our salt from the West Indies rather than from European countries.

Then there is the matter of nets and Italian hemp. As we know, nylon is quite expensive. It makes a good net and good cordage, but in the old days we used a lot of Italian hemp. Perhaps that is a matter that the delegation will look into to see whether or not we might not be able to get more of that hemp from Italy because, as we are all aware, rope is a very important article in the catching of codfish. It seems to me that we must be prepared to utilize the great resources that lie at our doorstep. Today we see Russian trawlers coming to our banks to fish and Norwegian steamers steaming to our icefields. We see the value of the harvest which nature has so bountifully provided for our use slipping away from us to be used to provide products which will enter into competition with our own exports, thus further restricting the markets which we can supply.

At this point I should like to say a word to the fishermen of Newfoundland who endure such hardships in the fisheries. I would point out that so far as the Newfoundland fishermen are concerned—I do not suggest this is limited to Newfoundland—their interests are being well looked after by the Minister of Fisheries. In addition we have as our cabinet representative the Secretary of State. I am assured that everything possible will be done, in co-operation with the minister who is responsible for Newfoundland's cabinet work, to assist our fishermen in every possible way.

The prosperity of the fishing industry is dependent upon exports and world trade. Our home market is relatively small, and the loss of the world markets would deal a severe blow to the industry. Thus we see that we are in need of a more aggressive trade policy. The marketing problem is not an easy one. We are extremely thankful for the great work that has been done by the fisheries department in the marketing of the catch of Newfoundland fish, in co-operation with NAFEL. We realize the serious problem presented in the sterling area where so many of our competitors have sterling balances by means of which they can exchange their products and get other products as well. Today in Newfoundland we are dependent

upon the Canadian dollar. When our customers are short of dollars, we find it is not so easy to market our fish.

The expansion that is envisaged in the Newfoundland fishery is not a mirage. It is there, so to speak, right on the horizon. The transition from salt fish to fresh fish is being realized today, and we are aware of the additional revenue that will place in the hands of our fishermen. As we get more plants, we realize there will be more employment and our fishery will have an increasing export value. We shall have an increased ability to compete in the world markets. The export markets we are able to supply are limited because of exchange difficulties, when compared with other countries that have no currency problem.

As I said before, the frozen fish markets are more lucrative markets and with the improvement in technique and lower costs we shall be in a better position to compete with other people. We are only too anxious to supply those markets that we regard as necessary if our fishermen are to maintain the standard of living we feel is necessary for them. Unfortunately, in Newfoundland there is too little hydro power. If there were a greater hydro development I feel we would be able to instal more mechanical fish driers and thus lower our costs. It would also relieve the fishermen from so much of this backbreaking work of spreading the fish on their flakes. I feel that we can be most optimistic in our outlook for the fisheries.

Personally, I have great faith in our fisheries. While in the past there have been problems which seemingly would engulf us, today we are in a better position. We can look upon the future with more hope and a better realization of our great heritage. We must put forth a united effort in striving towards this goal, with a firm faith in our ability to achieve success and full prosperity in the great fishing industry.

**Mr. Gillis:** While listening to this discussion, Mr. Chairman, it struck me that within the past few years our fisheries have become rather important to the government, and have received considerable attention. I can recall the time in this house when there were perhaps two of us, and I was one, who took part in this debate. The reason was that up until the appointment of the Hon. Mr. Mayhew I thought that the fisheries department was a place in which a member was put to get him ready for appointment to the cabinet sometime if he showed promise. The result was that not much was done about fisheries.

Listening to the minister this afternoon, with his comprehensive survey, it was rather