

Supply—Fisheries

and perhaps somewhat overdue. The Atlantic salmon is one of our important commercial fish on the Atlantic coast and its future must be safeguarded. Not only is it an important commercial fish but, as the minister mentioned, it is an important sport fish as well. So far as sport fishing is concerned, in Nova Scotia the fisheries are free to all who wish to enjoy them. Therefore when we speak of sport fisheries for Atlantic salmon, trout or anything of that nature in Nova Scotia, there is no question of thinking of something that is exclusively the privilege of those who are better off and have plenty of leisure time to enjoy this sport. It is a sport that is open to every citizen in our province; and I am glad to say that it is enjoyed by a large majority of our people. However, they are more and more coming to recognize the necessity, in their own best interests, of co-operating with measures of conservation particularly with respect to the Atlantic salmon.

The guardian services of the Department of Fisheries have been improved over the past few years to my own knowledge and to my own satisfaction. However, I think that improvements could still be made. From contacts that I have had in my own county, I am sure that the officials of the department will find ready co-operation from a vast majority of the people with whom they will have to come in contact in connection with matters of this kind. I am sure the officials in that area will report to the minister that they find that kind of co-operation.

I was delighted particularly to hear the minister refer to the steps being taken to deal with the predatory birds that are a real problem on our streams. This matter has been discussed by the fish and game associations in Halifax. They were especially concerned about it, and I was delighted to hear the minister report that arrangements have been made whereby this scourge can be at least brought under some sort of control. I do not want to detain the committee any longer at this time, but I should like to repeat my congratulations to the minister and to tell him that the east coast fishermen and fish operators are very pleased with the way that he has taken over the responsibilities of his department. We are glad to welcome a man of such knowledge of the west coast fisheries to the east coast, and we wish him well.

Mr. Stick: Much has been said today regarding fish, and the minister has given us a splendid survey of the fishing industry for the whole of Canada. I think he has worked hard and energetically since taking office. His report today shows just how hard he has worked and the progress that has been made since he assumed office. In no

sense of criticism may I say that I noticed that he spoke in greater detail of the fishing on the west coast than he did of fishing on the east. That is quite natural because he knows from a personal standpoint the problems of the fishery of British Columbia. However, we hope that in time he will familiarize himself just as much with the fishery of the east as he has with that of the west.

Newfoundland was born and spawned on fish. Over 450 years ago it was the discovery of the tremendous quantities of fish around our coasts that led to the discovery of Newfoundland and the settlements which were formed there later. Fishing has been a national problem to us through those 450 years. It is still our national problem. Anything which concerns fishing concerns the great majority of our people and the economy of the province of Newfoundland.

I was very glad to hear the minister say that the market for salt codfish is improving. I must take his word for it, but when I was home at Easter there was great concern about markets among those who export our fish. They told me that there was no improvement in sight as far as prices were concerned, and certainly they were not exporting as much as they had at the same time last year. Perhaps that situation has improved since then. If it has, I am very glad to hear it.

Mention has been made of the curing and grading of salt codfish. That has been a problem with us for very many years. May I suggest to the minister and his officials that they should give serious consideration to the grading of our fish. I suggest that instead of having a sworn culler employed by the merchant the government should take over this service and appoint government cullers so that there will be no dispute when the fishermen sell their fish as to what quality they are going to receive. The problem has been with us for many years and causes us a lot of concern. It is the cause of much dispute. I know something about the problem because I am a culler myself, and I have culled fish. If you are going to have one grade whereby the fishermen are paid according to that grade then the government will have to take over the service so that there will be uniformity of grading. I bring that to the attention of the departmental officials and I ask them to give it serious consideration.

Mention was also made of fish sticks. This is a new process for the fishing industry and it is capable of tremendous expansion. I was informed when home that one big firm in Newfoundland has had an order for 10 million pounds which it cannot supply. The hon. member for Gloucester said that this