

and develop his business; and that if the licence is granted, the extent of his purchases of fresh fish from the fishermen will not be adversely affected. I have always insisted, as my predecessors have done—the record shows this—that the applicants should submit to me sufficient evidence to show that they could not obtain an adequate supply of suitable fish to enable them to carry on their business properly, and that the granting of the licence would not affect the extent of the purchases from the hook-and-line fishermen. Every year such evidence has been submitted under oath, and I have been satisfied that the applicant could not properly continue to develop his business without the operating of the trawler. This year again, evidence has been submitted under oath. There are ten pages of it. I will not read them, but they constitute a public document which can be placed on the records of the house or given to anyone who asks for it.

I have been criticized for having delayed until the last moment the giving of my decision. I felt that in order properly to discharge the duty imposed upon me by the act, and to be fair to everyone concerned, I should wait until the last moment so as to give everyone interested every facility and ample time to put before me such evidence as was required. For that reason I have always delayed as long as possible before making a decision in the matter.

I have before me, up to the present, evidence under oath from two companies. One of these is the Maritime National Fish, Limited—that is the new company—which has applied for three licences, that is, the renewal of the three licences which the company has enjoyed for the last seven years. I have also two applications from General Seafoods, Limited, a United States company that has established a base of operations in Halifax and is applying for these licences.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 57, respecting the United Church of Canada.—Mr. Motherwell.

Bill No. 58, to incorporate the Trustee Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.—Mr. Cameron.

Bill No. 56, to incorporate the Associated Canadian Travellers.—Mr. McPhee.

[Mr. Michaud.]

FISHERIES ACT

SEINE FISHING FOR SALMON PROHIBITED IN WATERS ADJACENT TO MOUTH OF FRASER RIVER

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster) moved the second reading of Bill No. 29, to amend the Fisheries Act, 1932.

He said: This bill is similar to one which I have introduced on several prior occasions. Briefly, the bill asks for the elimination of seine fishing from a part of the gulf of Georgia, which is really the estuary of the Fraser river. For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the methods of fishing employed on the Pacific coast, which differ somewhat from those in use on the Atlantic coast, it might be advisable if I take a moment to say that there are three principal methods of fishing in use on the Pacific coast, namely, gill netting, seining and trolling. Of course, we have some traps at Sooke harbour, which matter came before the house a short time ago and which, I understand, will come before the fisheries committee for discussion. Gill netting and the use of seines are entirely different. The seine boat is a large power boat costing some \$15,000 to \$16,000, having a net 1,200 feet long and seventy-three feet deep, whereas the gill net is 1,200 feet long and some thirty-two feet in depth. I give the dimensions in feet rather than the mesh or fathoms to make the picture clear to hon. members.

Reviewing briefly the history of the agitation which has been proceeding on behalf of the seine net fishermen of the Fraser river, I might say that until 1933 the area in question was fished entirely by gill netting; no power boats were allowed into that area. As a result of intensive fishing by seine boats in other parts of the province, an agitation was started by the canning interests and the owners of seine boats, seventy-five to eighty per cent of which are owned by the canning interests, to allow this Fraser river area to be opened up to the use of seines. While there are districts in British Columbia where seine boats can operate and perhaps should be allowed to operate, it has long been the policy of the department to prohibit their operation in certain narrow channels and estuaries. A seine boat with its long deep net follows the fish; the net is cast wherever the fish school, making a circle, and then the bottom of the net is drawn tight, bringing the catch up to the surface of the water. That is why the net is called a purse seine. Then the fish are brailed from that into the boat.