

Supply—Fisheries

with the fishing industry, as well as those of us who are members of the standing committee on marine and fisheries, have no right to be given an opportunity to study such important and far-reaching amendments before they are enacted? I am sure that the members of the committee on agriculture would not stand for such treatment and members from fishing constituencies should be given ample opportunity to study such important problems.

Finally, I also urge the minister to take every possible step and action to persuade Washington not to raise the present duty on fish and not to introduce any new duty on fishery products. We are all aware that pressures in that direction are already very great, as the report of the United States tariff commission indicates. I want to join in the plea of my colleagues, the hon. member for Charlotte, the hon. member for Coast-Capilano and the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, in this connection. I am sure that all members of the committee were pleased to hear from the minister that some action would be taken and has been taken to protect the United States markets for Canadian fish and that there was constant reference between the two governments concerned in this most important problem.

Mr. Bryce: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask a question about the indemnity plan. I want to know if anything has been done about extending it to the prairie lakes. I asked this question of the former minister and his answer was that they did not have the administrative staff then to handle it. Has anything been done since in order to let us have the benefit of that plan?

Mr. MacLean: Mr. Chairman, the problem in this regard is a real one. It is an administrative one which is very difficult to overcome. The objective the hon. member has in mind is indeed worth while. It is one that we have in mind as well and efforts will be made to achieve that end but I cannot promise the hon. member anything definite at the present time.

Mr. Bryce: I am delighted to have that assurance from the minister and I hope he will do what he can because I think it is something worth while for the fishermen. In making a speech about fish I am handicapped because the only fish I can brag about are the Winnipeg goldeye and lake Winnipeg whitefish. Nevertheless, they are delicacies and salesmen tell me that they can sell more Winnipeg goldeye than anything else in the fish business.

Mr. Cannon: Mr. Chairman, I am following a custom established for a number of years

in taking part in this debate as a representative of a fishing constituency. I wish, first of all, to join other members who have congratulated the minister upon his appointment to this important portfolio. I wish, not only to congratulate him upon his appointment but to also congratulate him on the excellent manner in which he has presented his estimates to the house today. I am particularly pleased that he did present his estimates in such an excellent manner because it is very likely this may be the last chance he will have to present the estimates of this department, and if he had not done well he would not have any opportunity to redeem himself.

I should like also to congratulate all the members who took part in this debate on the very useful and interesting contributions they made to it, and the high level of the debate. This was true of all the contributions except that of the shorter of the two hon. members for Halifax. At the end of his remarks he made an allusion to a certain outhouse which will permit students of parliamentary lore in the future to refer to his speech as "the outhouse speech".

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): You have one on the other side now.

Mr. Pickersgill: That was a most distinguished intervention.

Mr. Cannon: I was particularly pleased to hear the minister's assurance that the government of which he forms a part are making representations to the United States to avoid any repetition of the recommendations that have been made by the tariff commission of the United States that the tariff on Canadian fish be increased. We all know this presents a most serious problem for all fishing constituencies. This problem is even more urgent and the danger is even greater now because there is no doubt that the attitude taken by the government that there should be a diversion of 15 per cent of our imports from the United States to the United Kingdom is not of a nature to make friends for us in the United States. I am very pleased that the government are doing all they can to prevent any increase in the tariff.

There are a couple of suggestions I should like to make, and a couple of questions I should like to ask of the minister, which he will no doubt answer when he makes his supplementary statement in this house. My first suggestion is that something should be done for fisheries along the lines of the government's action in helping agricultural products. I have always maintained, Mr. Chairman, and I believe I have been right in doing so, that all primary producers in this country should be on the same footing; they should get the