

assistance in the way of relief grants, as we are doing under the Department of Labour or the Department of Agriculture to assist distress, or will the efforts of this board be simply confined to locating new markets and assisting in better packing? Does this mean more bonus legislation by way of assistance to the salt fish industry? Is it general assistance in the form of relief, but under the guise of a board, or just exactly what is intended?

Mr. MICHAUD: That will be apparent when the hon. member sees the bill.

Mr. ISNOR: When we have the bill before us we shall be able more intelligently to discuss the reason for such action as is proposed in this resolution and the proposed establishment of a board to deal with this very important subject. I simply wish to express to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud) my appreciation on behalf of the fishermen, particularly of Halifax county, and, I think I can very well say, on behalf of the fishermen of Nova Scotia and elsewhere in the maritime provinces who, I feel, will profit by such a bill.

In reading the resolution as tabled on April 21, I note that it is divided into two parts: first, the powers of the board; second, the appointment of an advisory committee. The powers of the board could very well be subdivided under three headings. The first is to investigate the marketing of salt fish. This is a very important function, and the condition is not as stated by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Pelletier) who advocates that there are no markets. I say that there are markets, and it is the duty of the board which is to be established to make the proper contact with those markets and thus create additional sales for our fishermen, and make it possible, we hope—

Mr. PELLETIER: Mr. Chairman, I do not want the hon. member to misquote me, and I am sure he does not want to. I said the minister admitted that his former markets had vanished. I did not "advocate" no more markets.

Mr. ISNOR: I am quite willing to be corrected, and I accept the change suggested by the hon. member for Peace River. I still feel that he did indicate that there were no markets, but I am quite willing to accept his correction. I intended to point out that there are markets, and that it is because of these markets and the possibility of sales therein that this resolution has been introduced which will lead to an act establishing a board which will endeavour to procure additional sales for the fishermen of the maritimes.

Then the resolution says the bill will establish terms and conditions under which the board may give assistance to the producers of salt fish for export. I think that word "export" should be given serious consideration. This is new business for Canada, and I am particularly gratified because we are reaching out for that new business in connection with our fishing industry. I think it would be well for the Minister of Fisheries to bear in mind our export business in fish when the agreement with the West Indies comes up for renewal. That is one lost market that I think we can regain by the methods suggested in this resolution.

It is stated also that the board will enter into agreements for the export of salt fish. We have not the bill before us, and I am not quite clear as to what this means. No doubt the minister will enlarge on that point later, but I suggest that not only the large exporters but also individuals or groups of fishermen should have the opportunity to export through the board that is to be established.

The board is to be given power to expend and administer the sum of money necessary to accomplish its purpose. I did not like the words "a limited amount" used by the minister; I should have preferred him to say an agreed amount or a certain amount, because if it is only a limited amount the activities of this board may be curtailed to such an extent that it may not bring about the results that we who are interested in the fishing industry look for. I would suggest that the amount necessary to provide proper assistance be arranged for or decided upon, and that such amount be sufficient to take care of all the marketing that may be done.

Provision is also made for the appointment of advisory committees, and the minister stated that men experienced in marketing methods and the export business would be appointed. I am pleased to have that assurance, because it is only through the appointment of such men that we shall be able to bring about the results hoped for under this legislation. Provision is made for the necessary travelling and living expenses of members of the board, and so on. That, of course, is a matter of routine, but I trust that care will be exercised in this regard also.

With reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Peace River, may I, in a very kindly way, say that we hear a great deal from this hon. gentleman. I have been careful not to show how little I know about the wheat question; in fact I have been careful not to enter into any controversy or make any statements in regard to matters in which