

will be brief. I hope when the next session of the house comes around I will feel in a better position to deal with this question. I would state to my hon. friend, however, that this government hopes to take all possible steps to ensure a favourable position for Canadian fish in the various export markets. Mention might also be made in this connection of the present plans of the Department of Trade and Commerce to extend and improve its trade commissioner service abroad in the interests of Canadian fish exporters. Future trade largely depends upon the quality of our products. Food standards generally became increasingly higher in the pre-war years. The department's emphasis is more and more on quality. The quality of the product must not only be of high calibre in comparison with fish of other countries but also in comparison with other foods.

The present transition period no doubt will bring greater responsibilities both upon the industry and upon the department. Here I might mention that the function of the department is intended always to be in the interests of the industry and these people dependent upon it. At times certain regulations may appear to be irksome and irritating, but from past experience it can be seen that while unpopular at their inception they have been amply justified as time went by.

No doubt the future will entail certain expansion and changes in the department. I cannot go into detail at this time, but we have hopes of producing adequate staff of high calibre and properly trained. In this connection I might mention that we shall be looking for recruits from among those of our young men who have been in the three armed services and who are now returning from overseas. These new recruits will be given proper courses of instruction which it is hoped will make them educationalists as well as police officers.

The fisheries of this country occupy a minor place in dollar volume in comparison with other industries, but one must measure it by the number of people who are dependent upon it for their livelihood. Parliament and the press as a whole throughout Canada quite naturally pay a great deal more attention to agriculture, forestry and mining, because they loom more largely in the dollar bracket; but we are interested in the number of people whose lives depend upon the industry. I regard the fishing industry as one of the most hopeful industries in Canada because, as the hon. member for Queen's-Lunenburg has said, there is so much still to be done.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): For many years I have risen in my place in this house and asked the Minister of Fisheries to see to it that we in Ontario should get our fish from the maritimes. I do not know how much the fishermen get for each class of fish, but I never could quite understand the tremendous spread between what they received and what my people in the city of Toronto have to pay for fish. I believe that for cod, as an example, they get three or four cents a pound; but in Ontario when you want to buy a piece of cod you have to pay thirty or forty cents a pound for it. There must be some reason for that. The minister spoke about our export trade. I think it is time we did something about trade within our own country and brought the fish from the maritime provinces up to Ontario, where we have about three million people who would like to get fish. But we do not believe fish should cost as much as roast beef, and that is about what it does at the present time. At other times of the year we cannot get the fish at all. I wonder if the minister would tell us something about this matter.

Mr. BRIDGES: It is really a complex question the hon. gentleman has brought up at this stage of the proceedings, though of course I am not criticizing him because it is so late in the session. I believe it is a matter which will require a great deal of study. If other ministers, after giving the matter considerable attention, were unable to give the hon. member an answer, I am sure it will require a great deal of study for me to answer his question. However, I can assure my hon. friend I shall endeavour to give him an answer when we meet again next March.

Item agreed to.

#### 76. Fish culture, \$199,030.

Mr. GREEN: Can the minister tell us how many hatcheries there are in British Columbia operated by the dominion government at the present time, and how that compares with the number formerly operated?

Mr. BRIDGES: There are no fish hatcheries operating in British Columbia under dominion control.

Mr. GREEN: How many were there previously?

Mr. BRIDGES: I am told there were about twelve.

Mr. GREEN: Has the department any intention of reestablishing dominion hatcheries in that province?