

Supply—Fisheries

to a value of \$21,071,730. The fishermen had an increase of something less than \$4 million.

Mr. Brooks: I have not heard anything about the fisheries of New Brunswick. While I am not from a fishing constituency I would ask what the situation is in that province. How has the Torquay agreement affected the fisheries of the maritimes? Are we retaining our market for salt fish in the West Indies? I notice that we have increased our trade with Cuba, and I am wondering whether that means that we have increased our market for fish. What kind of fish would they take from us in the Cuban and West Indian markets, and from what part of the maritime provinces does that fish come?

Mr. Mayhew: The fishing industry of New Brunswick has shown a substantial increase. In 1949 there was a production of 186,119,000 pounds, whereas in 1950 it was 239,318,000. My recollection is that the Torquay agreement has not affected the fresh fish industry, but it has opened some markets for the sale of canned fish.

Mr. Brooks: Is not Cuba a large market for salt fish?

Mr. Mayhew: Yes; but last year there was an upset in the West Indies market, chiefly in Trinidad, due to the operations of the Scottish co-operative society which made some sales there. I believe however that they may be unable to fulfil their contract. The result is that the market is proving fairly stable, so far as the maritime provinces are concerned.

Mr. Brooks: As I understand, we are gaining markets in Cuba and are not losing any of the markets in the British West Indies; is that correct? There have been some statements to the contrary.

Mr. Mayhew: So far as we can see at the moment, what the hon. member says is substantially correct.

Mr. Higgins: A few minutes ago the minister said that Canadians were eating one pound more fish per person per year. Has there been any increased consumption throughout the rest of the North American continent?

Mr. Mayhew: We have no figures, but our understanding is that there has been a corresponding increase in the United States.

Mr. Higgins: On December 6, 1949, the minister made a statement, which I believe he still adheres to, to the effect that if the people of North America would each eat one more pound of fish per year the fishing industry would hardly begin to meet the demand.

[Mr. Mayhew.]

Mr. Mayhew: I think that statement has been borne out by the facts because that is about the position we are in today. Most kinds of fish are in short supply rather than long supply.

Item agreed to.

Fishing bounty (chapter 74, R.S. 1927), \$160,000.

Mr. McLure: I realize that this is a statutory item, but I understand it is customary to ask for information on such items. I should like to know what bounty has been paid in each county in Prince Edward Island, and the number of fishermen receiving the bounty?

Mr. Gibson: Politics.

Mr. McLure: I can tell the hon. member one thing; it is not independent politics. I would be on one side of the fence or the other.

Mr. Mayhew: Probably the hon. member will be surprised that I can give this information for the different counties. It is as follows:

| | Number of men | Number of boats | Amount of bounty |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Kings | 128 | 104 | \$1,166.40 |
| Prince | 598 | 350 | 5,313.40 |
| Queens | 222 | 116 | 1,958.60 |

Mr. McLure: Is the bounty paid to oyster fishermen or just to regular hook and line fishermen?

Mr. Mayhew: The regulations provide, first, that he must be a British subject engaged in deep-sea fishing in Canadian vessels or boats for at least three months. He must have caught not less than 2,500 pounds of sea fish and have fished in a boat measuring not less than 12 feet along the keel, and with not more than three men, including the owner, who will be allowed as claimant.

145. To provide for transportation, dressing and dyeing and other expenses incidental to receiving and disposing of fur seal skins accruing to Canada pursuant to provisional fur seal agreement between Canada and the United States by exchange of notes dated December 26, 1947, \$500,000.

Mr. Gibson: How many seal skins were processed for the department and what was the total net profit?

Mr. Mayhew: For 1950-51 the net revenue to the Department of Fisheries was \$558,532. If customs and excise duties are considered the revenue is \$820,788.

Mr. Gibson: How many skins?

Mr. Mayhew: Twelve thousand, nine hundred.

Mr. Gibson: I should like to read into the record for the information of the minister a letter which I received from Paul Sam of