

Supply—Fisheries

statements as to facts which do not require any reply, or statements which might be controversial—although I did not notice any of that kind in particular.

However, he did refer to seal fishing, and spent considerable time in discussion of that matter. This is an international affair. We have no control of the seas beyond the three-mile limit and, if the Norwegians so wished, they could fish seals outside that limit without committing any violation. I noticed that the hon. member laid emphasis upon the fact that the seals were caught and scalped when they were very young, perhaps only a day old. From the standpoint of conservation it would not matter whether a seal was one day or six months old. There would be no difference, although it may have a certain appeal when the statement is made in the committee that young seals are being slaughtered.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): There is a vast difference between a seal one day old and a seal two or three weeks old. The difference is in weight. Therefore there is a difference in the capacity the ship can carry.

Mr. Mayhew: The hon. member has lost my point. I am talking about conservation.

Mr. Higgins: I believe I also said that seals were being killed before the young were delivered.

Mr. Mayhew: I regret the whole incident, and I wish to assure the committee that already representations have been made to Norway in the matter. I believe that before long some arrangements will be made whereby this practice will not continue. However, I would not like to be any too sure that the fishermen from Newfoundland do not engage in the same abuses. If we are going to say very much to Norway we would like to know that our own skirts are clear. My statement today is that we are making progress in connection with this matter of the slaughtering of seals before they are mature. This matter will probably be dealt with at a special meeting to be convened with the other countries concerned, particularly Norway. At any rate I can assure the hon. member that it has not been forgotten and is being attended to.

He also referred to salmon conservation. This matter, whether it refers to the east or west coast, is one in which the department is definitely interested. In Newfoundland this year we have spent a sum of money on stream clearing. Our program, known as the multiple stream development plan, applies to Newfoundland as well as to other parts of eastern Canada and to western Canada. Last

[Mr. Mayhew.]

year we spent \$15,000 on stream clearing and fishways in Newfoundland, and this year we will spend about \$30,000 on the same kind of work.

We find a ready sale for this species of fish, and I have said on many occasions in the House of Commons that we should be endeavouring to conserve and propagate such species as fast as we can. I assure the hon. member that in this regard Newfoundland will not be forgotten.

The hon. member asked whether there would be any further payment in connection with Labrador fishermen. Up to date, while we took in 150,000 quintals we have been able to market in the ordinary way some 100,000 quintals. The balance of it was given to different charities. Indications are that there will be a loss of about \$327,000 in that operation—and it may be more. I said further that an examination was being made of the returns of fishermen, both from Labrador and shore-caught fish, and that these returns will soon be in. They are beginning to come in now, and they are being tabulated as they come. This tabulation should be completed toward the end of July, at which time we will be able to determine what the returns have been to the fishermen, and what further aid, if any, we will be able to give them.

I want to make only one other statement, which I think can be considered a statement of good intentions. As far as I am concerned, the fishing industry would not be of much interest if I did not have a keen desire to do something to increase the standard of living of the fishermen, no matter in what province of Canada they operate. They should have a standard of living which means simply having a little more than just enough to eat and a place to live in. They engage in an occupation which entails the maximum of gambling but which is of vital interest to this country. I am sure that those who sit behind me and represent other departments of government are just as anxious as I to bring about this result.

The hon. member spoke about unemployment insurance for fishermen. I think he will realize the difficulties that would be encountered in providing unemployment insurance for six or seven months in the year and having a fishing season of only three or four months. While the problem is difficult, it has not been neglected so far as thinking about it and worrying about a solution is concerned.

The hon. member referred also to the industrial bank. The question he raised has been passed on to the Department of Finance; this is something that rests entirely with the