

we had better give serious consideration to the proposal of the President of the United States to set up an economic customs union consisting of the entire Americas.

I wish now to deal briefly with a local matter, namely, the serious situation affecting the fishermen of the Pacific coast. I suppose all hon. members from British Columbia have received telegrams and perhaps telephone calls from fishermen in British Columbia pointing out the serious conditions confronting them in connection with the matter of arriving at a price which will enable them to carry on. They have called attention particularly to the price of sockeye salmon offered by packers or canners.

So that the problem might better be understood, for the benefit of hon. members may I point out that there are five varieties of salmon, and that the highest priced variety is known as the sockeye or red salmon, the market for which is found principally in Great Britain. At the beginning of every fishing season fishermen and packers get together to arrive at prices. This year they have met, but have not arrived at an agreement because the cannerymen are this year offering a price almost 30 per cent less than has been offered in previous years. They are saying, "Well, we do not know what the market will be. Great Britain is not eager to take our sockeye salmon." The result is that they are offering the fishermen in some instances 13 cents to 14 cents less per fish than was offered in 1939. This is serious enough, but when one considers that the cost of nets and gear has gone up 30 per cent in some instances, he will understand the plight of the fishermen. At the moment these men are refusing to go out to the fishing grounds until this matter is settled. The British Columbia members have been negotiating with the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud) in an endeavour to have him take some action, but so far nothing has been done. Our argument to the minister is that precedents have been created, and something can and should be done.

We do not complain when the fishermen in the maritime provinces receive over half a million dollars. We are not against the government guaranteeing the price of apples or the price of pork. We are not adverse to the government guaranteeing the price of wheat to the farmers. But we ask for equal treatment. When the fishermen of British Columbia, numbering nearly 9,000 this year, ask that something be done, they are told that nothing can be done. We are informed that it is a matter for the cabinet to decide. This is the reason why I bring this matter to the attention of the house this afternoon. Time is short because the fishing season opens on

[Mr Reid.]

June 30. Is the government going to stand by and see between eight and nine thousand families deprived of their living? All this is likely to cause more unrest on the coast.

This food will be required later, if not immediately, at least in the near future. We are being urged to produce more food. I contend that the government should take note of this dispute and at least offer a guaranteed price so that these men can carry on their fishing operations.

One word on the war situation. The response of the people of Canada to our war effort has been simply wonderful. We have a perfect example of the unity that exists between Great Britain and ourselves in the way in which Canadian homes have been offered to British children. Some time ago the leader of the opposition referred to immigration and pointed out the number of people who had come to Canada from the continent of Europe. I was looking over the figures the other day, and it may interest the house to know that in 1871, 92 per cent of the population of Canada were of British and French stock. The last census of 1931 shows a drop in this percentage to 80 per cent. In other words, in 1871 there were in this dominion only some 302,000 persons who had come from the continent of Europe or other countries, whereas in 1931 there were in this country 2,000,000 persons who were not of British or French stock.

It may well be that many of the British children who are sent here will remain. I hope it does not happen, but if Hitler makes an onslaught on the British isles it is possible that many parents might be killed. Even though that does not occur, there will be great benefits to Canada from this closer contact between Great Britain and ourselves, and we need more British stock.

I do not think the loyalty of any one should be judged by whether or not he gives a gift of money, and I shall not attempt to make such a judgment at this time. However, I think some praise should be given to those citizens of Canada, from the poorest to the wealthiest, who have given willingly, and, in some instances, most generously. There are those who have sent their fifty cents and upwards, which reminds me of the parable of the widow's mite. In proportion they gave more than many who gave in abundance. I think the gift of \$100,000 to this country by the lieutenant-governor of British Columbia should give a lead to many other wealthy Canadians. In this connection I have nothing to say about the great city of Toronto. The mayor of that city set out to collect a million dollars, and I believe all he was able to get was \$18,000.