

*Supply—Fisheries*

of Canada. This very complete and comprehensive document is the first of its kind ever published and I commend it to all members of the house.

I should like to say a few words in connection with the long-range prospects of the fishery as an industry. As the population of the world increases and especially as the population of Northern America increases the importance of fish as a food will increase at least proportionately and even at a greater rate because as the population increases in any country sources of protein food especially become more restricted. We can learn from the example of other nations that have a very high density of population such as Japan where they have turned to the sea as a source of nutritious food with a high protein content and many other beneficial constituents as well, such as vitamins, trace elements and so forth that are very vital to a balanced diet. As the use of fish goes up the demand for it will of course increase and with that there will be a tendency toward more competition for the fish and therefore a rise in prices. I should like to quote very briefly from page 85 of the publication to which I referred a moment ago, "The Commercial Fisheries of Canada", as follows:

The pressure from two expanding populations—

The reference is to the populations of Canada and the United States.

—upon a resource base which has some obvious limits will have an effect not only on prices generally but also no doubt on the present market orientation of the Canadian trade. In large part, the effect may depend upon the extent to which the domestic market is able to compete with the United States market for Canadian supplies.

I do not intend to make any further general remarks at the present time except that perhaps it would be well for me to offer one further explanation. As is obvious to all members of the committee, the estimates are exactly those which were presented by the previous government. It is not my intention to have any reductions moved but that is not to say that savings are not being made. Nevertheless, the way we have carried on during the last year by passing interim supply from month to month has put the program of the department out of step especially in such items as construction where most of the money, if it had been voted at the beginning of the fiscal year, would have been spent in a very short period. Because of the fact that these moneys had not already been voted but in most cases were voted one-twelfth at a time these programs were thrown out of step in some cases. As a result, it is difficult—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Would the minister permit a question just for clarification?

**Mr. MacLean:** Yes.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Does that mean that any part of the building program was actually held up for lack of funds at any time?

**Mr. MacLean:** I would say there have been cases where that is true.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Perhaps the minister would not mind giving them later.

**Mr. MacLean:** Yes, I will be glad to do that. As the result of that it is difficult to determine what might be actual savings and what might be actual deferred expenditures which might be required to be revoted in next year's estimates or asked for in supplementaries at a later date. There were also cases in the department where a program which was planned was held up by conditions over which the department had no control. There are a couple of cases where weather prevented certain projects from going forward. As a result of these things I think it is much more logical to wait for a full fiscal year so that we can estimate more accurately what savings can be made.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** Mr. Chairman, first I should like to congratulate the minister on the statement he has made tonight. During his remarks he mentioned that he had visited the east coast last summer. I regret that I did not see him at that time because I believe it would have been worth while if he could have met personally some of the fishermen in that area and obtained their views and ideas on remedies or improvements which might have been helpful to the industry.

In his closing remarks the minister touched on the fact that he felt there would be savings in the department. When the Progressive Conservatives sat on this side of the house we heard the expression "Waste and extravagance" quite often. I would wish him before these estimates are concluded to point out to us any waste and extravagance that he has found in his department during the months that he has been minister.

During the throne speech debate I expressed my opinion with regard to this government's action in increasing the tariff rates on several commodities coming in from the United States and the attitude they had taken in connection with trade with other countries. For that reason I shall not repeat all that I said at that time. But I wish to remind the Minister of Fisheries that we expect him to be the watchdog in the cabinet in so far as this manoeuvring in trade is concerned. We also expect the Minister of National Revenue from Nova Scotia, the Minister of Veterans