

inquiry should be made with a view to reducing the cost of fish to the consumer, and that, if possible, a system should be established whereby fish could be put on sale in our cities and towns while it is still fresh.

**Hon. Mr. Horner:** What is the per capita consumption in Canada?

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** I am glad my honourable friend asked that, because I overlooked it. The per capita consumption in Canada last year was 12.2 pounds, of which 5.4 pounds was canned fish, and 6.8 pounds, was made up of cured, frozen and fresh fish. That completes the picture for purposes of comparison with other countries.

The British Columbia fisheries face some dangers, as do the fisheries on the Atlantic. Here let me say to my friends from Newfoundland that, if I were giving them advice, I would suggest that they request the government to have attached to the office of the Secretary of State for External Affairs a practical fisherman, competent to advise our representatives at international conferences.

**Hon. Mr. Duff:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** Prior to Newfoundland's entry into confederation Great Britain spoke for the island at conferences having to do with the North Atlantic fisheries; but now Newfoundland should urge upon the federal government the necessity of having competent advisers at all such conferences.

On the Pacific the dangers are twofold. I am one of those who believe that the sooner a peace treaty is signed with Japan the better. Last year a special American fisheries mission was invited by General MacArthur, the Supreme Allied Commander in Japan, to study the fisheries of that country. The mission was composed of three men, all experts in fisheries matters, and in my hand I hold a copy of the report that they made to the President of the United States. I will read from it one paragraph:

Certain policies deserve special consideration. The mission is thoroughly convinced of the soundness of the position that the Japanese should not be permitted to expand their deep sea fishing operations, under any circumstances, until the Japanese Government demonstrates its ability to control its fishermen and to respect international obligations. It is felt to be of utmost importance to the entire world fishery future that the sound position which SCAP has taken in this matter be maintained.

The initials "SCAP" mean Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

When discussing this matter with the honourable the Minister of Fisheries, I was very pleased to hear from him that not long ago he had visited Japan, and that he agreed with the position taken on the matter by General MacArthur. And indeed the consequences

may be serious for Canada, especially for British Columbia, if a fisheries agreement with Japan is not made part of the peace treaty. I have suggested to the government that we should have present, to advise our representative at the conference for the signing of the peace treaty, a man experienced in the fisheries.

It is well known to those of us from British Columbia that prior to the outbreak of the last war Japan had the largest fishing fleet in the world, an industry in which one million men were employed. So-called mother-ships came from Japan, down Bristol Bay and along the British Columbia coast, presumably for the purpose of testing tides, currents and the temperature of the water; but it was noted that when they arrived at the port of Seattle they had 20,000 or more cases of canned salmon on board. Honourable members who have given the fisheries some study may be interested in knowing that the Japanese have a technique of fishing with nets two miles long.

After his appointment as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan General MacArthur established bounds within which Japanese fishermen were required to stay. Did they stay within those bounds? No, they did not. Only a short time ago Japanese fishing boats were picked up a few miles off Australia. Of course, a protest was made to General MacArthur, and when the boats returned to Japan their owners were fined by the Japanese Government.

Out on the Pacific we have what is called the continental shelf, where our salmon feed. Our great salmon fisheries, comprising five varieties of salmon, provide a livelihood for thousands of fishermen. The United States and Canada are taking about 47 million pounds of halibut a year from certain areas which would have been depleted of halibut had an agreement or treaty between both countries not been reached. What will our position be if the peace treaty does not contain an agreement by the Japanese fishermen not to pursue their occupation on our west coast without regard to the quantities taken? In the past the Japanese fishermen never were conservationists. They used to take all they could get. Their mother-ships, equipped to stay out for a year, returned laden with fish. So I say it is of the highest importance that Canada be well represented at the peace conference by a fisheries expert. We need to have there a competent man, one whose experience has been on the practical side of fishing, rather than someone whose knowledge has been gained solely in college. Sometimes I feel that today we are suffering from too many theorists.