

in British Columbia will open, and on it depends ninety per cent, I should think, of the livelihood of the gill netters of British Columbia. The canners have, within the last few days, set the price which they claim is all they are able to pay, and it is so far below last year's prices that the fishermen contend, justly I think, that with the tremendous increase in the price of gear—web and so on—and the higher cost of living it will be utterly impossible for them to live, to say nothing of making a livelihood at these prices. The canners claim in justification that their action is caused by price restrictions made by the British government, and therefore the question seems to be one of national importance. It would be better public policy, it would pay the government and it would pay us all, rather than have these thousands of fishermen and workers in allied industries idle and dissatisfied all summer, to have the matter treated as a situation somewhat parallel to that with which apples were dealt with, so that there would be guaranteed to the canners such a price as would enable the fishermen to get a price at least approximating what was paid last year. I will send the telegram over to the minister.

Hon. J. E. MICHAUD (Minister of Fisheries): The hon. member was good enough to intimate to me before the house met that he would ask this question.

Mr. NEILL: Will the minister allow me? I forgot to state that I was speaking on behalf of several members from British Columbia who are interested.

Mr. MICHAUD: I had occasion to look into the matter. The government has in fact been made aware of the decision of the British Columbia canners to pay the fishermen this year twenty per cent less than they paid last year for sockeye salmon. This variety of salmon is of the highest grade and quality, and heretofore almost eighty per cent of the annual Canadian pack was marketed in Great Britain. Owing to disturbed conditions and the relatively low price set by the British food controller for this high grade commodity, the canners are uncertain as to the possibility of being able to market the pack this year and they feel that they cannot pay more than they are now offering. Although this is no longer a matter of fishing but a marketing problem, the whole situation has created a real social problem in British Columbia, and it has not escaped the attention of the government. At the present time consideration is being given to its possible solution as well as to the methods whereby it can be solved. That is all I can say at present.

Mr. NEILL: The matter is urgent.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DOMINION DAY ADJOURNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. P. MULOCK (York North): May I ask the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) if any decision has been made as to whether the house will sit on the first of July?

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Many members of the house, I know, have informed the Prime Minister that they have made engagements on dominion day in their own constituencies or elsewhere and have requested that the house should not sit. I believe it is the intention of the Prime Minister to give notice on the order paper that he will move accordingly.

CAPE BRETON COAL MINES

ITALIAN AND GERMAN CITIZENS PREVENTED FROM WORKING AND NOW ON RELIEF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): I wish to ask the Minister of Labour (Mr. McLarty) a question. This morning I received a letter from the mayor of Dominion, Nova Scotia, to the effect that a great number of Italian, German and Austrian citizens, residents of that town, have been forcibly prevented from working in the coal mines and that consequently the town of Dominion is faced with the need of providing relief for these people, which it is not in a position to do. Will the minister inform the house whether he has received information in connection with this situation? If so, what steps is he taking with regard to it?

Hon. N. A. McLARTY (Minister of Labour): The situation is similar to one dealt with by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) some time ago. I have asked that inquiries be made into the matter through the provincial government, and I can assure the hon. member that every possible consideration will be given to the circumstances he has outlined.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

APPLICATION FOR BOARD OF CONCILIATION ON DISPUTE AT TRENTON, N.S., STEEL AND CAR WORKS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): Will the Minister of Labour (Mr. McLarty) be good enough to answer another question? I have received a lengthy telegram this afternoon from the steel and car works at Trenton, Nova Scotia. A conciliation board