

Commercial Fisheries Development

quite a spectacle. They are almost completely covered with ice from the tips of their masts, and throughout their length and breadth. For many years the only way to remove the ice, so dangerous to the crews, was to use a mallet, which required arduous labour to knock off a very small quantity of ice. In recent years captains and crews have met with some success by installing steam equipment. By using steam hoses they have managed to remove some of the excess ice that builds up, layer on layer, while the ship is en route to port.

It is evident that the minister has given some thought to this matter or he would not have included clause 3(d) in the bill. Therefore I suggest to him that when he is considering new types of fishing vessels he make a study of their stability factor and of a proper manner of de-icing them when they are to operate in the North Atlantic in severe winter weather. This is vitally important, especially when we consider the shortage of crews and the necessity of maintaining our fishing fleet at sea.

The minister has also included a subclause (2) whereby he may—

—enter into an agreement with any province providing for the undertaking jointly with the government of the province or any agency thereof of any project that the minister is authorized to undertake under subsection (1).

Here I would commend to him the remarks of the hon. member for Saint John-Albert who spoke in great praise of Atlantic salmon and with whose remarks I agree. In Nova Scotia in recent years we seen a great decline in the catch of Atlantic salmon.

At one time the Lahave river was known to yield over 250 salmon during a season. Last year it yielded less than 75, to the great regret of local people who looked upon the river as a major attraction for tourists to the area. The reason the river contained a large number of salmon in previous years is that at one time lumber operators maintained large wooden dams on the river, which served to control the supply of water and enabled salmon to get upstream to the spawning grounds during the spring of the year. With the advent of trucks it was no longer necessary to maintain river water control for the sluicing of logs to the mouth of the river, and so the dams were allowed to fall into disrepair.

It is believed that the Department of Fisheries could go a long way toward re-establishing the salmon run not only on the

[Mr. Crouse.]

Lahave but on the Gold River, the Medway River and other salmon streams in Nova Scotia by reconstructing wooden dams on these rivers for water control. In view of this provision in the bill I hope the minister will avail himself of the opportunity to carry out joint programs with the provincial authorities to help restore the salmon fishing in the major salmon rivers of Nova Scotia.

There are many other provisions in the bill to which I could address myself tonight. One of them concerns the necessity of working closely with the Minister of Public Works in the provision of new facilities for the fishing industry in the Atlantic provinces. We have expanded our fishing fleet, but in many maritime areas we are now suffering from inadequate docking facilities. This is especially true in Lunenburg and throughout many parts of my constituency. I hope the minister will give favourable consideration to this matter when implementing this clause of the bill.

Clause 5 of the bill gives the minister very extensive powers, which I fear might even trespass on the rights of the provinces. He will have to use his good judgment when implementing this clause of the bill. As he is well aware, in the Atlantic provinces we have fishermen's loan boards. We have departments of fisheries in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and, I believe, Newfoundland. Therefore, in view of the wide powers which will be granted to the minister by this bill, before implementing any new measures I hope he will undertake careful consultation with the various provincial interests.

I reserve the right to make comment on other provisions of the bill at another time. In closing I commend the minister for his efforts in bringing forth this bill which, in the main, should prove of great assistance to the Atlantic provinces and to the fishing industry in general.

Mr. Patterson: My observations, Mr. Chairman, will be brief and general in nature this evening. I have listened with great interest to the minister's statement. In fact I have always found his statements dealing with the fishing industry of great interest. Tonight he referred to amendments which he will introduce as we study the various clauses of the bill. We look forward to seeing these amendments so that we can analyse them in order to assess whether they will be effective in meeting the various problems with which the industry is confronted.