

there. It used to be said that the Maritime National Fish company was a United States owned corporation, and that fact was always stressed in the debates; but since 1937 that can no longer be said, because the company, a Canadian corporation, is now widely owned in the maritime provinces. The question, however, is this: Shall the Maritime National Fish company be granted a renewal of its trawler licences?

As to the effect of that, if it were done, I want to trace the facts in detail as I see them. Hon. members must realize that in Nova Scotia there are many types of fishing for ground or bottom fish. There is schooner fishing. The centre of the schooner fishing industry is, I suppose, the town of Lunenburg from which the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg (Mr. Kinley) comes. There are the inshore fisheries, which extend almost all around the shores of Nova Scotia. The hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare (Mr. Pottier) is chiefly interested in the inshore fisheries. East of Halifax, along the long shore-line of eastern Halifax, Guysborough and Richmond, are a large number of inshore fishermen. I believe the bounty figures show about 3,000 of these inshore fishermen along that long coast.

Mr. CAHAN: That is boat fishing.

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes, the inshore fishermen. They go out in small boats and fish, bring their catch in at night, go out again the next day and so on. The economic distress in Nova Scotia is mainly on that shore-line from Halifax east. That is where conditions became desperate a few years ago, and conditions there are still bad. That is the home of the cooperatives. That is where these priests, clergymen and others have taken an interest in the conditions in their various communities and have organized cooperative stores, credit unions and cooperative lobster packing plants, and they have made some progress in improving the economic condition of the people.

In considering the fishing problem of Nova Scotia, I am not ignoring the problem in my own constituency, or the problem in the constituency of the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare; and there is some problem, not nearly as serious as in the eastern constituencies, in the constituency of the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg. Ordinarily, however, we think primarily of the problem that exists in the great eastern district, with a large population and a small production, and its poverty. What sort of business does the Maritime National Fish company at Halifax carry on? It carries on predominantly

a fresh unfrozen fish business. Hon. members this afternoon have not made any reference to the distinction between the fresh unfrozen fish business and the fresh frozen fish business. Perhaps the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg did; I do not know; but I do not think a clear distinction was made between the fresh unfrozen fish business and the fresh frozen fish business. There is all the difference in the world between the two, and that difference is at the root of the question. It is that distinction which makes the question a difficult one, not a one-sided question as the hon. member for Kootenay East would have us think.

A distributor who carries on a fresh unfrozen fish business must get the fish into the hands of the consumer a very few days after they leave the water, and that means that if there are periods of a week or two weeks during which, on account of storms or for any other reason, the fish cannot be landed at the port and sent forward, the fresh fish business passes into the hands of somebody else. It passes into the hands of suppliers of competing fresh fish, other food products or other kinds of fish. At any rate, it goes. Hon. gentlemen may say there should not be any fresh unfrozen fish business, and there is something to be said for that position in general. It may be said that it would be desirable if all fresh fish that was marketed could be put on the market as frozen fish. But parliament cannot decide the taste of the consumer. The consumers of Montreal, Toronto and other places to which this cod and haddock go from Nova Scotia ask for fresh unfrozen fish and demand that they get it. Therefore the fresh unfrozen fish business is different from the fresh frozen fish business.

I do not blame my hon. friend the member for Queens-Lunenburg for urging what appears to him to be the interest of his constituents—and it was more nearly the interest of his constituents than that of anyone else that he was urging—

Mr. KINLEY: They are in the forefront.

Mr. ILSLEY: —as I shall show in a few minutes. The hon. member asks this question: Why should one company and no one else be allowed to use these trawlers? Well, the hon. gentleman knows, and it is a fact, that at Lunenburg the business is mainly, about eighty-five per cent, a fresh frozen fish business.

Mr. KINLEY: At certain times of the year only.

Mr. ILSLEY: Those are the figures.