

per centum of the value as estimated or found by the Board at the point and time of export of the fish in respect of which such assistance is given.

The proposed amendment is not limitative; it does not specify how the desired end shall be reached. When the economy of the Bill is examined it is obvious that no effective assistance can be given to the fisherman himself unless a market is found for his salt fish, at a price that will enable him to live. The words added would cover all means of so helping the fishermen, and I have no objection to this amendment either.

The third amendment would eliminate clause 9. As I stated yesterday, I do not see that the clause is absolutely necessary, since clause 11 effects the same purpose.

But I have some doubt as to the usefulness of the amendment which would impose upon the Governor in Council the duty of appointing an officer of the Department of Fisheries as chairman of the board and the other two members as representatives of "the fishermen-producers, whether co-operative or other." I have no doubt that the man selected from among the staff of the Department of Fisheries would possess adequate technical knowledge, but I fear he would not be in a position to examine into marketing conditions throughout the world, and more especially in those countries from which our salt fish has been excluded by unfair competitive and other conditions. This restrictive clause might to a certain extent hamper the Government in selecting three persons competent not only to supervise the preparation of fish for divers markets, but also to purchase the product from our fishermen and see to its distribution. These purchasing operations may involve expenditure amounting to thousands of dollars, apart altogether from the 25 per cent payments provided for in section 6.

With that reservation, I accept the report of the committee and raise no objection to the Bill in its amended form.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, I am very happy that the honourable leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) has accepted the amendments. I need make no comment on those to which he wholly agrees. As respects the provision that the chairman of the proposed board shall be a member of the staff of the Department of Fisheries and the other two representatives of fishermen-producers, if I were Minister of the department I should welcome the amendment with acclaim. When a bill provides for financial assistance spread over a defined area, it is, I think, the greatest mistake to place the distribution of that assistance outside the department and in the

hands of local men. The principle is wrong. The results are always unfortunate. When it comes to the administration of the Act the Minister will be very glad that his chief officer is so close at hand. This will enable the Minister to watch operations under the Act and to see that the man administering it gives primary consideration to the general interest of the country.

The honourable leader of the Government fears it may be difficult to get a man who is sufficiently acquainted with the business. I cannot concede that there are not officers in the department who know a great deal about it. The honourable gentleman (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) says this board may be buying fish and then selling them. There is nothing in the measure to enable them to do that. It would be a far less desirable one if it gave them such power. Subclause (c) of section 6 enables the board to make agreements with exporters to handle the sale of the product.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: As agents.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: As agents they may do that. The official of the department may not have experience in merchandising, but if the Government do their duty the other two members of the board will know about that end of the business; they will probably have had experience in exporting as well as in purchasing. It is very important that these men be experienced in and understand the business of the producer, and that they be representative of the very man this Bill is said to be designed to help.

I should have liked the amendments of yesterday to go further; I should have liked them to provide for the exercise of some control over the value on which the 25 per cent may be paid. It is within the power of the board, without restriction, to estimate the value. This is a tremendous power, and it is the main reason why the head of the board should be an officer of the department. I can think of no case in which the link between the board and the department should be closer. I refrained from going further with amendments because the Minister, Mr. Ilsley, represented that to do so would prevent the board from making advances to the fishermen, which he represented to be very essential. I may have acceded too readily to the representations of the Minister in that regard. I did so because of my confidence in him. Until I heard the Minister it seemed to me the value fixed should be the market value, that is to say, the price at which a sale could be made; but his urging was so earnest that, wisely or otherwise, I yielded.