

there is a United States duty of three-quarters of a cent a pound on this commodity which duty is taken out of the pockets of our fishermen.

I am sorry to say that the lot of the fisherman is getting harder year by year. I was sorry to be informed just a few days ago that the price of rope has advanced to 20 cents a pound, and that the price of gasoline has advanced very largely, and is likely to go still higher. With these prospects in view, I am sure our fishermen can not expect as large profits in the future as they have had in the past unless something is done for them by the Government. I do not think that the hon. member for Lunenburg makes any suggestion at all for the amelioration of the lot of the fisherman, unless it might be that indicated in the remark which he made that it was important to get the fish as quickly as possible from the fishermen to the mouths of the consumers. The best way in which that could be done—and it would satisfy the constituencies of my hon. friend from Shelburne and Queens and my hon. friend from Digby, as well as my own constituency, and, in fact, all of the western counties—would be by the Government subsidising a line of boats running between Boston and Yarmouth so, that the boats would put in proper cold storage plants. The matter was discussed last year at some length, but I am sorry to say that up to the present time nothing has been done in reference to it. It would certainly help the fishermen to a very large degree.

Another way in which the fishermen could be helped would be to give a bonus, or a bounty, in some form to them. There is no line of industry in the world that is fraught with so much danger and hardship as the fishing industry. In my own constituency the fishermen carry on a very large industry in live lobsters, as will be seen by the figures which I have given to the House. This industry is carried on between the 15th of September and the 15th July, and it therefore takes practically the whole of the winter season. These fishermen are obliged to go out day after day, exposing themselves to hardship and cold as well as to danger and death. If there is any way in which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and his department can alleviate the difficulties and hardships of the fishermen, it would certainly be appreciated by those who are engaged in this industry. I have no fault to find with the

motion which has been moved by my hon. friend from Digby. If anything can be done for the fishermen by submitting this matter to the committee, I shall be heartily in accord with it. I am sorry to say that I am afraid that the hon. gentleman is commencing at the wrong end of this question. Unless the committee consider the question of free fish into the United States, which is the natural market, and without which market the fish business in the western part of Nova Scotia would be entirely obliterated, I am afraid that we can not hope for any great results.

At six o'clock, the House took recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I have just a few words to say on the resolution of the hon. member for Digby (Mr. Jameson), and I am afraid I shall disappoint my hon. friend the member for Algoma (Mr. Boyce) if his kind reception of myself is an indication that he expects an instructive or a lengthy speech from me. I of course very cordially approve of the remarks of the hon. member for Digby, and if as the outcome of this brief discussion, the fish trade will be benefited in any way, the House I am sure will be indebted to the hon. member who has introduced this subject. The wording of the resolution rather indicates the subject for discussion as being the cause of the difference in the price of fish between the points of production and the points of consumption, in the interior portions of the domestic market I assume, namely, in Canada. If that be the point which the hon. gentleman desires discussed in this House, I would say that it is rather an abstract and a very much involved issue, and to discuss it intelligently it would be necessary for one to have a very extensive knowledge of the fish trade; for instance, as to the cost of catching fish, methods of curing, methods of marketing, and then to some degree a knowledge of the tastes of the consumer. But the hon. member for Digby and the hon. gentlemen who have followed him have practically confined their remarks to the fresh fish trade and the cost of transportation, and I will therefore assume that, after all, those were the two points largely in the mind of the hon. member for Digby when introducing this resolution. In the few remarks I have to make I shall, therefore, confine myself to that aspect of the case.

[Mr. Law.]