

*Supply—Justice*

islands pickled mackerel filets. There is a large item with respect to the Atlantic coast salted codfish purchase program, 1953, amounting to \$446,903. There is an item of \$37,521 with respect to the Saguenay county salt codfish deficiency payment program, 1953. There is an item of \$45,741 with respect to the bloaters purchase program, 1952 and 1953.

**Mr. Nowlan:** When the minister says of 1952-53, does he mean we purchased some in those years and the losses were only realized in the present year? Otherwise some of these items should have been in other estimates.

**Mr. Harris:** That was the production year, and these sums are to be paid now because this is the sale year.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo):** Can the minister explain this a little further? I have the report of the fisheries prices support board for 1953-54, which contains a number of the items he read just now, but it does not contain anything for the period 1954 and 1955, for which I suppose this particular item provides. It says here that the completed program of the fisheries prices support board, as at March 31, 1955—there must be some other items than those the minister read out.

**Mr. Harris:** All the items I read, Mr. Chairman, come to the total of this item, \$744,382.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo):** Then there may be further supplementaries to complete anything beyond the dates to which the minister referred.

**Mr. Harris:** If there has been a fish support program during this fiscal year which is not completed by the sale of the fish by March 31, then there will be an item in next year's estimates.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo):** I was wondering, too, if the minister could tell us what sort of goal the prices support board has? Their objective, as set out in the report here, is to endeavour to secure a fair relationship between the returns from fisheries and those from other occupations. I am asking the question because of comparative figures I compiled with regard to British Columbia and the maritimes. There does seem to be a wide discrepancy there. In Newfoundland, for instance, there are 19,566 fishermen, and the average value of the catch per fisherman is \$770, whereas in British Columbia there are only 6,715 fishermen and the average value of the catch per fisherman is \$5,061. I was wondering if there was some attempt under this particular program of the prices support board to bring the maritime fishermen up to some more reasonable income level.

[Mr. Harris.]

**Mr. Harris:** I am sure my hon. friend would get more enlightenment on that point on the fisheries estimates, but I do want to say this. All the fishermen on the east coast look upon those on the west coast with some envy. My hon. friend knows the reason for that. This government has tried over the years, and particularly in the last three or four years, to find some means to not necessarily bring the average catch value up from \$700 to \$5,000 as he has indicated, but at least to see that the people on the east coast were not living at the low standards they had been before say 1948 or 1949, and particularly Newfoundland since it became a part of Canada. We feel there is some standard of living to which all Canadians are entitled, and this is one way of accomplishing that end.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo):** I am not quarrelling about it; I am just wondering if you are doing enough. It still seems very little for the average fisherman.

Item agreed to.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

585. Yukon Territory—administration of justice—further amount required, \$12,000.

**Mr. Montgomery:** Can the minister say if this applies to reform institutions or penitentiaries? It covers the acquisition of buildings and lands.

**The Chairman:** Resolution No. 585 covers the Yukon Territory.

Item agreed to.

586. Construction, improvements and new equipment, including provision for the establishment and construction of a new institution in the province of Quebec for the confinement and reformation of federal prisoners—further amount required, \$200,000.

**Mr. Montgomery:** I believe item No. 585 was the one I really wanted to find out about. There is an item in that for construction or acquisition of buildings and land. Would the minister say whether that is to acquire reform institutions in the Yukon, or what is it?

**Mr. Harris:** As I think my hon. friend knows, persons who are jailed in the Yukon are often incarcerated in Alberta, and we pay the cost of maintaining these people under certain arrangements with Alberta. This happens to be an item which was discovered by an audit as not having been submitted to us two or three years ago. We are now paying Alberta, because had they submitted it at that time it would have been a proper charge on the federal government.

**Mr. Montgomery:** My next question is on this item, Mr. Chairman, and I see it covers money expended on these institutions in