

that the exclusive licence to export fish would be discontinued in so far as it affected Newfoundland Associated Fish Exporters Limited. Consequent upon that, it is necessary to repeal the act which required permits for the export of fish. The exclusive right to export fish ends on July 31 of this year. It would be necessary then, and this is in accord with the wishes of the Newfoundland Associated Fish Exporters Limited, that the permit system be discontinued. Hence, this legislation which has been introduced.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): I do not intend to inflict a speech on the house at this hour of the night, but I do want to say that it seems to me very regrettable indeed that when this announcement was made over a year ago this legislation, which was obviously necessary, could not have been introduced at sometime during the session when it would have been possible to discuss this very important subject. I should like to remind you, sir, and remind the house, that the exportable surplus of salt codfish and codfish generally, in relation to the total production of this country is probably higher than that of any other commodity in the country and very much higher than wheat, as I discovered over 20 years ago when I first came to Ottawa from western Canada and had the view that perhaps many people in western Canada have that this industry is not as important as one finds it is.

For many years the marketing of the fish from Newfoundland was carried on by a lot of individual firms and there was cutthroat competition in the markets, a deplorable state in the markets. In order to overcome this, this system which has many analogies though also many differences with the wheat board system in western Canada grew up. Obviously, when Newfoundland became a part of Canada it was impossible to have a controlled marketing situation indefinitely in one province and an uncontrolled situation in the other provinces producing the same commodity. I have no criticism to make of the decision of the government to end NAFEL's exclusive licence. I think it was inevitable. It was just a question of timing, and I am not even criticizing the timing.

I do not intend to spend more than a minute or two on a point upon which I could have taken a great deal of time under other circumstances, perhaps on the minister's estimates. It does seem to me that a return to cutthroat competition by Canadian producers is going to be suicidal to the industry. We have competition from the Norwegians, the French, the Icelanders and from many other producers of fish in the foreign markets, and all our competitors are subsidized. The Canadian producer has to face subsidized

exports from all these countries, and to face them without anything comparable. I wish I knew the answer to this problem, and I would be glad to put it forward, but I am quite convinced that some method has to be found, by some device or other, so that the Canadian producers will not be competing with one another in the markets for any considerable length of time.

I hope the minister and his officials, and the Minister of Fisheries who is so familiar with this problem and his officials, will use their utmost energy in tackling this problem. I know there have been conferences with the producers in some other provinces, and also with the exporters. I know some of the difficulties. I know this is not an easy problem to solve at all, but a decent livelihood for these primary producers depends upon its solution. It should be tackled, and tackled with the utmost vigour and the utmost dispatch, and should be solved so that we will not have any lengthy period of real depression in the industry before there is a solution.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

LEGISLATION RESPECTING ORGANIZATION AND DISCIPLINE—CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. C-34, respecting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): I should like to ask the minister if, as I believe it is, this is the amendment he said he would undertake to have made in the other place at my suggestion when we debated this matter?

Mr. Fulton: That is correct. The Senate—I do not like to say at the request of the government, but the matter was discussed with members of the other place—in accordance with the undertaking I gave here the Senate amended the bill to provide that immediately after subclause (2) of clause 20, there should be inserted the following subclause 3:

The minister shall lay before parliament a copy of every arrangement made under subsection (1) within 15 days after it is made or, if parliament is not then sitting, on any of the first 15 days next thereafter that parliament is sitting.

The arrangements referred to are any new contracts with a province for the R.C.M.P. to carry out policing within the province.