

Supply—Fisheries

assuring the proper balance. Modern hatcheries will be needed with rearing pond facilities where fry would be fed and protected until they are able to fend for themselves with a reasonable chance of survival.

Perhaps we will also find that some artificial protection will be needed at various points where fish are found to congregate and feed in their early life. Off the coast of Florida a reef was built up of old car bodies which serves this purpose. The interiors of the cars form caves which promote the growth of natural food for the fish as well as providing shelter for small fish so that they have a better chance to survive to adulthood. The use of this idea would be of twofold benefit, in that we could clean up many unsightly areas in the countryside while promoting our fisheries. Perhaps our researchers could discover some cheap material that could be placed in the water at these locations to promote algae and plankton production so that food would be plentiful.

Most of our fish hatcheries in the great lakes area are producing fish for the stocking of our streams and inland lakes. Therefore the basic requirement for the restoration and maintenance of our great lakes fisheries is hatcheries. So I would propose to the minister that at least two modern hatcheries should be provided on the Canadian side of the lakes.

Plans are now under way for the construction of a hatchery at Jordan, Michigan, which is estimated to cost \$892,000. This would indicate renewed vigour in the United States effort.

Before I conclude these remarks I want to reiterate that our great lakes fishermen are in trouble. Twenty five fishing boats left Kingsville a few weeks ago and returned with only enough perch to fill fifteen 60-pound boxes. In 1959, 11,000 pounds of lake trout were taken from lake Huron, and in 1960 only 200 pounds were taken during the year.

A few days ago a 100-pound box of lake trout and whitefish arrived at Meaford from northern Saskatchewan and the express was in excess of what these same fish sold for a few years ago, when Meaford was a noted lake trout centre.

Now, sir, after having been in close association with the great lakes fisheries for over 25 years, and during that period having used hundreds of tons of fish for food on our mink ranch, I believe I am in a position to make some pertinent observations in respect to this industry. In that time I have seen a thriving, renewable resource descend from prosperity to the depths of poverty. During this transition those charged with the welfare of the industry were indifferent to a variety of factors contributing to the decline of the industry. This deterioration has

[Mr. Noble.]

been more pronounced since the lamprey and smelts appeared on the scene; but these are not completely responsible, mismanagement must be included.

With this thought in mind, sir, I would suggest that it is hard for any business to prosper under dual control. Therefore I am of the opinion that this work of restoring and maintaining one of our great natural resources, which we share with another country, should be under the complete control of the federal government, and thereby we would eliminate any duplication of effort in management or administration of this, the largest body of fresh water in the world.

In conclusion, I would further suggest that the great lakes fisheries be given prominence at the resources for tomorrow conference in Montreal next October.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make just a few comments about two or three specific items before the minister replies and answers the various questions asked. I do so in order that all the minister's comments may be in one place rather than being scattered throughout *Hansard*.

The salmon fishery in British Columbia normally accounts, I think, for 65 per cent or 70 per cent of the landed value of fish in that province. Accordingly, from an economic and other points of view it is the most valuable fishery we have on the west coast. There has been a notable decline in the salmon catch over the last few years.

For instance—and these figures are in five-year periods—from 1951 to 1955 the salmon catch was 860,080,000 pounds; in the period 1956 to 1960 this dropped to 625,140,000 pounds. This represents about a 25 per cent decline in the quantity of salmon caught, or a decline of over 200 million pounds in that period.

I understand that the salmon catch of last year was the lowest it has been during this century; the total was a little over 75 million pounds landed. Apart from the loss to fishermen of income and the loss in food value to the population, I think one can speculate about some of the reasons for the decline in the salmon fishery.

Mr. Macdonnell: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Howard: Yes.

Mr. Macdonnell: Would the hon. member mind repeating the first figure, which I think was 700 million or 800 million pounds, and then it came down to a figure of 75 million, if I remember well. Over what period of years was that drop?