

*Supply—Fisheries*

Minister of Trade and Commerce; but in the Department of Fisheries we propose to do everything possible to see to it that the products of the fisheries are made available in the best possible quality, not only to consumers in Canada but also to consumers in various markets of the world. The throne speech went on to say:

—to promote the development of international rules to safeguard the living resources of the sea.

Our greatest fishery resources such as salmon, halibut, cod, haddock and other ground fish, and the fishes of the great lakes are, to a large extent, international in character. Other nations besides Canada have access to those fisheries. The same stock of fish which might be caught by our fishermen close to our coast can also be caught by fishermen of other lands further out to sea. In this case successful conservation efforts can only be undertaken by joint international agreements of the nations to whom those fisheries are of common concern.

Up to the present time we have been able to cope with the problem presented by this international character of our fisheries through a series of treaties with the nations interested in their exploitation: for example, the northwest Atlantic fisheries convention between Canada and I think about 11 other countries; the north Pacific fisheries convention between Canada and the United States and Japan; and the bilateral convention between Canada and the United States covering the salmon and halibut fisheries of the Pacific coast and the fisheries of the great lakes. As a result of those conventions Canada, as well as other participating nations, has learned much about the problems of fisheries management in the high seas.

It is now possible to develop international conservation rules of general application which will enable states having coastal fisheries to undertake any necessary measures, not only to safeguard the resources of the sea against over-exploitation but also to manage the resources so that the fullest possible utilization of them can be made on a continuing basis.

I might say at this point that since I became minister of the department acts passed by the last parliament relating to two rather important international agreements have been proclaimed. One brought pink salmon under the salmon commission and the other had to do with fur seals. The first meeting of the international fur seal commission is to be held in Washington next week.

We have, with other maritime states, a great responsibility to maintain and develop

[Mr. MacLean.]

these resources of the sea for the benefit of Canada and, indeed, of mankind. As Minister of Fisheries it will be one of my foremost tasks to see that this responsibility is fully met and that efforts in the field of conservation of our fisheries are intensified.

I said that I believe the fishing industry has a great future. I believe this because of the enthusiasm I have encountered not only within the fishing industry itself but also within the department and among the scientists of the fisheries research board of Canada. I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the men in the department and the scientists who are mostly attached to the fisheries research board. They have gained for this country a very enviable reputation and are classed among the most capable in the world. I am honoured and proud to be associated with them.

I have been most impressed by the scientific approach that is being taken toward the maintenance and conservation of our fishery resources. Also in the technological field, in the catching, processing, handling and marketing of fishery products, our scientists and technical personnel as well as forward-looking companies in the industry are making this industry as modern as any in the country. I am aware that modern techniques have not yet reached all branches of our fisheries but progress has been very substantial.

As I indicated earlier, fishing is an uncertain occupation. Sometimes the fish appear in great abundance and sometimes they are scarce or do not appear at all. Last year was no exception. Early last summer unusually late ice conditions along the entire Atlantic seaboard appeared likely to curtail the fishing operations seriously. This was the case, but happily as the year advanced the fish became more plentiful and catches improved considerably. On the Pacific coast also the figures of early catches were disappointing but again the later runs did much to restore production and earnings to a normal level.

The over all market value of the fisheries will again approach \$200 million. Close to half of this amount goes directly to the fishermen while the balance goes for processing, packaging, handling and merchandising. The fishing industry is highly dependent on foreign markets but the domestic market is becoming of more and more significance. In September the queen's printer published a report prepared for the Gordon commission by the department and the fisheries research board on the commercial fisheries