

Fisheries

from Newfoundland and ordinary Newfoundland markets were relieved to that extent. In June, 1950, because fish was being left in fishermen's hands, the prices support board purchased 11,387 quintals of salted cod from fishermen. Six hundred and sixty-one fishermen had fish left on their hands, and the prices support board paid them \$85,243. In October, 1950, the federal government was again requested to assist the trade, and, as I mentioned earlier, the prices support board gave a guarantee on Labrador fish. The federal government's loss on this guarantee cannot yet be assessed.

While providing these aids to the salt fish trade, our department concerned itself with the more general problem of development, and a year ago I recommended to Premier Smallwood that together we establish a fisheries development committee for Newfoundland. This committee has recently been set up, and it begins its operations this week under the chairmanship of the Hon. Sir Albert J. Walsh, chief justice of Newfoundland. This committee is composed of representatives of federal and provincial governments with two representing the trade and two the fishermen. These representatives are Mr. Raymond Gushue, of St. John's, chairman of the Newfoundland fisheries board, representing the Department of Fisheries; Mr. Clive Planta, St. John's, provincial deputy minister of fisheries, representing the provincial government; Mr. H. A. Russell, St. John's, president of Northlantic Fisheries Limited; and Mr. H. A. Dawe, Port Union, president of the Fishermen's Union Trading Company Limited, representing the trade. Mr. George Groves, of Bonavista, and Captain Williams, of Grand Bank, represent the fishermen.

This committee will examine fisheries resources of the province, the economics of the existing methods of fishing and of processing, and will recommend a program capable of implementation by both federal and provincial governments and those engaged in the fishing industry. The recommendations will be based on the respective responsibilities of each party and will be carried through by each party taking an agreed share in the final program of development.

There is a great change going on in Newfoundland. There are new frozen fish plants in St. John's and elsewhere, and indeed the southwest coast is becoming dotted with them. In the salt fish business many plants have installed the mechanical driers, designed by our experimental station in Halifax, for heavy salted fish. There are thirteen of these now on the island. There remains the problem at the northeast and east coasts, the

[Mr. Mayhew.]

improvement and the greater standardization of the quality of light salted fish. We propose to instal in Newfoundland this summer a pilot plant for the artificial drying of light salted fish.

As these driers get into operation and as frozen fish plants extend, it becomes possible for the trade to buy raw fish from fishermen and then to produce a quality of product under control. Since the fisherman then does not need to make his own fish, he can spend more time fishing if means are resolved to help him equip himself better.

The federal department has given attention to this question also. Last summer we had two Cape Island type boats from southwest Nova Scotia demonstrate their operations in the Bonavista area, and the fishermen there have shown a great deal of interest in this particular technique. We shall continue this experiment this year out of Bonavista, putting the test boats on a purely commercial basis. The improvement of the boats and the gear of the inshore fishermen of Newfoundland is a major problem, and intimately tied in with the whole development program. We in the federal government do have a vote to help finance fishermen in the construction of draggers and longliners, and we are prepared to modify the present regulations to enable the help to go perhaps to boats of the 45-foot class and up.

We shall send to Newfoundland this summer three of our most experienced field technical men to advise industry on all matters relating to the production and preservation of fish. In addition, our top salt fish expert will be there to help answer the problems of drying light salted shore fish and to organize the pilot plant experiment mentioned above.

Since confederation the amount of money spent on fisheries administration in Newfoundland has doubled, and in addition the provincial government is doing its share. Our staff has increased from around 200 to 300 men to help in the administration, inspection and protection throughout the province. We have added several new vessels to the local patrol fleet, these being fitted with echo sounders to help locate herring and other species. We have made considerable improvement to bait depots, and have plans for installing one of the most up-to-date type. We are beginning a daily fishermen's broadcast, in collaboration with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, to give fishermen round the island information on market conditions, weather, to provide mercy calls and all other matters of information interesting to them.