

*Supply—Fisheries*

shore fisheries; we have a long coast line with good small harbours, and from those harbours the fishermen go out in small boats to prosecute the very important and valuable lobster fishery and also in other seasons the mackerel, herring, cod, and haddock fisheries as well. In addition, we have quite a bit of activity in the important sword fishing part of the industry, and over the last few years some of our boats have had great success in this field.

We also have in Halifax a very important concentration of the deep-sea fisheries, both the salt fishery and the fresh fish industry. The deep-sea draggers, trawlers and long-liners come in out of Halifax to land their catches at the fish plants of the salt fish producers, and more importantly at the modern and efficient plants of the several large companies that specialize in fresh and frozen fillets and other fish products of that kind.

The fresh fish side of the industry is greatly assisted in Halifax by the modern cold storage facilities which are maintained there by the national harbours board and which are used almost exclusively by the fishing industry. Recently these facilities have been modernized and extended to the great advantage of the fish companies which rely on the freezing, cooling and ice capacity of this plant, and I am sure the importance of the existence of these facilities is recognized by the fisheries department as a real contribution to the expansion of the industry throughout this whole area. I might add that further extension and improvement of the cold storage facilities is required, and I am sure that in due time these additional improvements will be brought into effect.

However, Mr. Chairman, this afternoon I wanted to make particular reference in my few remarks to the research activities being carried on under the direction of the Department of Fisheries at the northwest Atlantic fisheries experimental station at Halifax. The studies proceeding there are of both a practical and scientific nature. The practical studies are in the field of the techniques, machinery and other requirements for the modernization of our methods of handling and catching fish. The problems of properly storing fish which are caught on the high seas and bringing them into port in prime condition are very great indeed. The experimental station at Halifax, and the experimental station at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, have been conducting studies and experiments which have resulted in the improved design of fishing boats, trawlers, and draggers, and in the inclusion in newly-constructed boats of this nature of special

means of cooling and keeping fish clean and fresh until delivered at the processing plants.

So far as the equipment of the processing plants are concerned, they have made important contributions to the design of automatic filleting, skinning and cutting machines, and to the design and operation of automatic driers for the drying of fish; and of smoking machines for the production of various kinds of smoked fish. All these practical improvements and advances have been made freely available to the industry and they have been gladly accepted and put into use by the various branches of the industry to the great advantage, not only of the people directly connected, both operators and fishermen, but also of the consumers who as a result have received a better, more nutritious and more delicious product for their tables.

I was very interested in the reference the minister made this afternoon to the development of fish sticks. This is typical of the kind of advance that can be made in the fishing industry, and it certainly exemplifies the fact that if sufficient thought is given by the people connected with the fishing industry to new methods and new means of getting their product to the ultimate consumer in a form which is not only palatable but acceptable, also finished and easy to use, then their marketing problems are well on the way to solution.

Besides this work in the practical field, the experimental station also does important work on the basic science connected with the fishing industry. Studies are being conducted on the effect of the natural slime, with which the fish is encased in its natural habitat; on the keeping qualities and flavour of the fish; on the salts that are required in certain processes of preserving fish; and on the elimination of impurities and that sort of thing. All these basic and important studies are being carried on and there is no doubt they are producing information which will lead to the solution of various basic problems in the fishing industry.

The existence of this experimental station was, I believe, one of the main factors in the decision which was reached to establish the headquarters of the council of the northwest Atlantic fisheries council at Dalhousie University in Halifax. I believe that decision was justified in every sense of the word. We are all, I think, very pleased and consider it most appropriate that the permanent headquarters of this council should be in Canada. To us that was the main consideration, but so far as we were concerned in Halifax we felt that not only should it be in Canada but that the ideal place for it was