

*Supply—Fisheries*

the meantime a situation that really is intolerable as far as the commercial fishermen on the west coast are concerned continues to prevail.

In certain fishing harbours attempts are being made to collect side wharfage charges, whereas in harbours a few miles up and down the coast no charges are levied. In some places where charges are levied there are no facilities such as water, lights and supervision, and in other places there are. This situation is such that many of the commercial fishermen are virtually in a state of open rebellion against the existing regulations.

Commercial fishermen have come to me with a bill in their hands and told me that they would sooner go to jail than pay this particular charge, because they believed it was an inequitable and unfair charge in relation to the situation in which other fishermen find themselves. I am sure the minister would agree with me that this is not a healthy state of affairs. In view of the fact that it is a question which involves virtually all the commercial fishermen on the coast of British Columbia, I am asking him to use his good offices with the Department of Transport to get them moving and to bring forward a policy that will be more equitable and feasible as far as administration is concerned.

**Mr. Pascoe:** Mr. Chairman, I intend to take but a very short time because, as has been said by other speakers, the estimates of the fisheries department have been very carefully considered by the standing committee on fisheries. I just want to put on the record some highlights of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into Freshwater Fish Marketing. This report was published only recently and contains many matters of interest to my area. Lake Centre, of course, is so named because Last Mountain Lake is there. There is a considerable amount of commercial fishing carried on in that lake, mostly in the wintertime.

A press release issued after this report was tabled in the House of Commons had this to say:

This one-man commission was established by the government in July, 1965 to consider and report on the export marketing problems of the freshwater fish industry in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario and the Northwest Territories.

I am speaking particularly of Saskatchewan, but I know that Manitoba also is very

[Mr. Barnett.]

much interested in the freshwater fish industry. This press release also said:

The royal commission's inquiry arose from recommendations made by the Federal-Provincial Prairie Fisheries Committee which had been studying instability of prices and demand in freshwater fisheries products and the means for improving returns to primary producers by more efficient marketing.

The plan proposed by Commissioner George H. McIvor follows the system of the Canadian Wheat Board marketing of grain in western Canada. This is probably because Mr. McIvor was chief commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board. As I say, Mr. Chairman, he recommends the marketing of freshwater fish something along the lines of the operation of the Canadian Wheat Board. He recommends that there be five to seven members federally appointed to this marketing board, which would be the sole seller of freshwater fish. The board would accept delivery of fish only from fishermen. The marketing plan would be along the lines of the Canadian Wheat Board, with an initial price and a pooling of all the fish for marketing. Then a final payment would be made to the fishermen. As I say, Saskatchewan is quite interested in the freshwater fish industry.

• (4:40 p.m.)

I might point out to the minister that the report shows that Saskatchewan rates third in the size of catch of freshwater fish, exceeded only by Ontario and Manitoba. In the years between 1962 and 1964, an average of 14,452,000 lbs. per year were caught, which was a considerable amount; it is 12.3 per cent of the total freshwater catch in Canada. However, what I find particularly interesting is that the increase in the catch in the last few years has been 29.5 per cent over what it was between 1955 and 1959. This table shows that the increase is the largest of any other freshwater fishing industry in the country.

Mr. Chairman, I am just bringing this to the minister's attention because I know that there is considerable interest in the west in this marketing plan and I trust that the minister, and through him the government, will deal with this plan in co-operation with the provincial governments.

**Mr. Robichaud:** Mr. Chairman, my remarks will be very brief because I do not want to delay the passing of my own estimates, but I know that hon. members expect me to answer some of the questions they have raised. I thank all hon. members who have spoken