

ruinous rates, I think the same protection should be given the fishermen. I hope the minister will see that in future they will be safeguarded. Mind you, Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that a price floor is a cure-all for either the farmer or the fisherman. He must depend upon the export trade, which practically determines the price of his product. I believe that about sixty per cent of our fish go abroad.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): Seventy per cent.

Mr. KINLEY: Well, to-day we are in a war-time economy. For that reason I believe in putting a floor under the family; and by family allowances, which have been proposed in parliament, we are putting a floor under the fisherman's family to see to it that he and his family will not be stricken with poverty in the midst of plenty. Also, if we can guarantee him a fair price for his fish, perhaps we may put him in the place where he should be in the economy of the country.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am greatly obliged to the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg, the hon. junior member for Halifax and the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond for their support in the appeal I have made to-night on behalf of the fishermen in the maritime provinces.

I read this brief some weeks ago, and agreed with many of the recommendations contained in it. There were one or two I did not think were proper. I wonder what the attitude of the minister is toward this brief; has he given any reply?

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): The maritime fishermen's association were asked to prepare a brief for me. They came here in a delegation, and presented the brief. I studied it with them, carefully.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I have no doubt that is correct, and I am accepting the minister's statement one hundred per cent. But what I wish to know is this: What is he going to do with the recommendations contained in the brief? I have no doubt he and the officials of his department studied them from A to Z. But that is no good, unless we get action. I am prepared to wait and see what action the government is going to take in the matter.

I wish, however, to draw the attention of the government to another group of fishermen which has not been mentioned to-night. I refer to those fishermen who go down to the sea in the terrific waters of the bay of Fundy, perhaps the most tempestuous tract of water on the Atlantic coast. I wish to talk for a

[Mr. Kinley.]

few moments about the sardine fishermen in the counties of Charlotte and Saint John, and the islands adjacent thereto. For many years prior to prohibition about ninety per cent of the production of sardine fisheries of the Passamaquoddy and bay of Fundy areas went to the factories at Lubec and Eastport in Maine, where they were processed and sold in the markets of the United States. With the advent of prohibition in that country, and the disappearance of the free-lunch counters found in certain institutions, the demand for this fish fell off very suddenly, and the industry was in a bad way in those two Maine towns. The result was that many of the processing and packing companies went bankrupt, and the fisheries languished.

Subsequently, through the enterprise of a citizen of the city of Saint John, and his associates, an industry was established in a sound way in New Brunswick. It had been operating in a small way in a plant in the county of Charlotte. New capital was introduced, new methods adopted and the new enterprise proceeded. A very large export trade was developed, not with the United States but with various parts of the British dominions—and especially under the impetus of the Ottawa agreements.

Then came the war. There has been developed a measure of control over the sardine fisheries. I do not know if the minister can tell me why, but the head of this large packing plant in New Brunswick was made fisheries controller.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): He has no more interest in it.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am not accusing him at all; wait until I am through.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): I just say that he has no interest in the Black Harbour plant any more.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That will be news to a lot of people in New Brunswick.

Mr. KINLEY: What is that?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That Mr. McLean has no longer any interest in Connor Brothers. That is certainly news to me, and it will be news to a lot of other people. I know his brother is the managing director of the company, and I would assume that his capital is still in. However, I accept the minister's statement. He should know; I do not.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): He might have some shares left; but what I mean is that he is not managing this firm.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Oh yes, but he is the man behind the gun; we know that.