

Supply—Fisheries

1952 commercial fishermen in Canada and the United States took out more than 4,000,000 pounds of trout from lake Superior. Last year the catch was 576,000 pounds and the estimate for this year is less than 300,000 pounds.

The doom of commercial fishing in the great lakes was forecast by conservationists and commercial fishermen more than 20 years ago, perhaps nearer to 30 years. Those were days of exploitation of natural resources and the governments of the day were tone-deaf to the voices in the wilderness protesting that natural resources were not forever unless controls were imposed.

The great lakes fisheries commission on which the federal government is represented has continued over the years since its formation in 1954 to do much research. It appears that their belief is that the lamprey is the culprit causing all the trouble, and all their efforts have been directed toward its destruction. Their program in this regard has met with considerable success since the streams used by the lamprey for spawning were treated with lampricide. Now that these measures have been taken as the necessary preliminaries to coping with the problem, the fishermen feel that the commission, in co-operation with the provincial government, should press forward with a progressive program of restocking. In fact, the sports fishermen's clubs, commercial fishermen and members of several chambers of commerce in the area of Georgian bay have formed the Georgian bay fisheries association. It is their intention to press for more action in the restoration of our fisheries.

The urgency of this is illustrated in an excerpt which I am going to read from the Toronto daily *Star*, which illustrates what is happening in all the fishing centres of the great lakes in my area. This article concerns the fisheries in Tobermory, at Georgian bay. It says:

The fisheries at Tobermory on the Georgian bay have never been so low. In 1953 there were 11 boats operating with a catch in excess of \$800,000 maintaining 60 families. In 1957, only one boat was operating. In 1959 there were only two boats with a catch valued at less than \$40,000 to provide for eight families.

I might say that the only fish they are catching at the present time in this port is herring, and they are not catching \$40,000 worth.

I have attended most of the meetings of the Georgian bay fisheries association. They have many dedicated people in their membership who should be given some tangible encouragement in their quest for the restoration of an industry that means much to our economy. The tourist industry in the lake Huron-Georgian bay areas is of major importance, and lake trout was once our greatest attraction. Mr. Chairman, our good Minister of Fisheries may be wondering how we feel

he should fit into the picture. I believe he could become the toast of the great lakes fishermen. In my opinion, the time is ripe for the injection of some new blood and some new ideas into the great lakes fisheries commission through our federal representatives. Give this program of fisheries restoration some new ambition, some new energy and more money if necessary. I trust, Mr. Chairman, that the minister will see fit to make good use of the extra \$130,000 voted over last year's estimates for the use of the great lakes fisheries commission.

If we cannot restore the lake trout, let us introduce the sockeye salmon. I have come up with this idea for about six years now, I guess, and have seen no action yet, but I hope that our new minister will follow the trend of things and give us some sockeye salmon. Salmon has been successfully transplanted to other waters. I have two clippings here which bear out that fact. One is taken from a Port Arthur paper and the other from my local paper at Owen Sound. It appears that a few years ago, I believe in 1959 or 1960, the department planted about 300,000 fingerlings from the fish hatchery at Port Arthur in Goose creek, which is up in the Hudson bay area. To my knowledge nothing has been heard of these fish since, but in cleaning up the troughs and containers in which the fish were kept previous to their transplantation about 60 escaped into lake Superior. According to these two articles, three of these fish were subsequently caught at widely spaced points in lake Superior and they had grown to maturity, weighing two and a half to three pounds, which illustrates that fish can be introduced into the great lakes and live there. Therefore I hope the minister will do something along this line of experimentation.

I should also refer to the excellent success with the rainbow trout since its introduction into the great lakes. These, of course, are a sporting fish. Nevertheless their spawning habits are the same as the salmon, which takes place in the headwaters of the streams and rivers. It is my contention that one of the reasons we have difficulties with lake trout is because they spawn in shoals in the great lakes and the predators there destroy great numbers of fish eggs. This is one reason that I think fish which go to the headwaters of rivers to spawn would have a better chance to survive. I feel that if our Minister of Fisheries would show some initiative through the great lakes fisheries commission, our young, progressive Ontario government, his partners in the administration of the great lakes fisheries, would not hesitate to jump on