

*Supply—Fisheries*

again referred to this set of problems. An attempt is being made now to control them by limiting the season and limiting the number of licences which are being issued. As more and more efficient means of catching the fish are brought about, if no more fish are to be taken out of the ocean, then of course the season has to be limited, and the result is that there are fewer and fewer fish for each man to catch. Until our methods of conservation are developed much farther than they are now, it will not be possible to increase the total catch.

The minister referred to the sport fishermen. He called them sport fishermen or holiday fishermen. It is immaterial, but there are more and more, professional men, businessmen and people who have seasonal unemployment during the fishing season, who do augment their incomes by going out and catching fish commercially, not only in the Fraser river, but also on the high seas. Some of these people have very expensive gear and they do add materially to their income. I know one professional man who goes out regularly every summer and enjoys his holiday fishing commercially. He goes out with his son. He sells his fish commercially and it is not really considered an essential part of his income. He enjoys the life. Of course it is not easy to say that he must not go fishing. The oceans are open to everybody, and the minister will have to be careful how he limits these licences. The elimination must be such that it does not play in favour either of the unions or of the fishing industry. A very large number of licences, an unlimited distribution of licences, would result only in competition between the various packing houses in order to get the fishermen to deliver their fish to their packer. A few licences would inevitably mean an increase in the price. But the fact does remain that our fishing industry on the west coast is overcrowded at the present time, particularly in so far as the salmon industry is concerned. It may happen to other types of fishing.

One solution seems to me to be an encouragement of the real commercial fisherman not to specialize solely on one species of fish but to have the gear, equipment and the type of vessel which would enable him to catch other fish. I am glad the minister is limiting the licences this year to Canadian citizens only. There have been immigrants, coming in from Scandinavian countries particularly, who have gone into the fishing industry in the past. They have been excellent fishermen, as have been some of the orientals who have engaged in the fishing industry, and I think it is well that commercial fishing licences should be

limited to Canadian citizens only. I would like to ask the minister whether the price of a commercial licence is not too low? The fee is very small and I am not certain that the smallness of that fee may not encourage more people to go into the commercial fishing industry. I would like the minister to tell me whether consideration has been given to the advisability of increasing that fee, which might have the effect of eliminating the tourist and holiday fishermen, whereas the commercial fishermen would still be in a position to pay perhaps a larger fee.

As regards marketing, the minister's remarks were most encouraging. We were all pleased to learn that there is now no carryover of the pack and as the new pack comes in there will be other markets opening up. A year ago the industry sent representatives to the United Kingdom and made what might be called a bilateral agreement, which was not exactly in the form of a barter, but under which the United Kingdom authorities were prepared to take some of our canned salmon if we would do our best to purchase more fishing gear, fishermen's clothing, tinplate and that sort of thing from the United Kingdom. That has worked out very satisfactorily. That arrangement showed great initiative on the part of the industry itself and I must pay the minister credit for having contributed his part to that agreement. I am not a supporter of the government of which the minister is a member, as he well knows, but there is no question that this agreement assisted the industry.

I would like to stress the importance of a more thorough inspection not only in the canning plants but also on the boats themselves. The fishermen sometimes become careless in regard to the way in which the fish are handled in the catcher boats and in the packers and I believe that perhaps the quality of our fish might be still further improved if there was more rigid inspection. We realize that that means more money and also means employing more personnel on patrol services, but if anything could be done to encourage the fishermen themselves to take more care in the way the fish is handled I think that would be of advantage.

Lastly I would like to deal with the problem to which the minister himself made reference, and that is the question of international agreements and the control of the fisheries in those waters which are immediately adjacent to our coast. A year ago the minister informed us that a commission had been set up under Dean Curtis to consider the definition of our territorial waters.