

Placentia Bay. I was born in Placentia Bay. I think that putting up the Erco plant was heartbreaking. Many fishermen in that bay made their living solely by fishing, and they sold a great deal of that fish fresh to the various firms around. Erco put up this plant and polluted the water to such an extent that it destroyed many thousands of fish and prevented the fishermen from catching fish there.

For the time being, at any rate, I am glad that the Government has come across and said, "Very well, we will pay you for what you lost and pay you for any fish you caught and cannot sell. We will also pay you and help keep you alive anyway." The big mistake was made in allowing that plant to be put there in that condition without some government agency seeing to it that they would not be allowed to pollute the waters.

I want to tell you that clean water around the shore is very important, because of the fact that the codfish come into the shore to get the bait and catch the caplin. The caplin is the summer bait which swarms in on our shores. The codfish follow them in, and the fishermen are able to catch a very good supply of fish. I know that, because I was there on the southwest coast at the time we had a tidal wave in 1928 or 1929—I am not sure of the date. We also had an earthquake which took place about 110 miles off the coast. In the district where I lived a tremendous wave came in and washed away stores, stages, houses, and drowned 28 people instantly. That is one of the sad parts. The other sad part was that the caplin which bring the fish in, never came back to our coast again for seven years. Consequently, there was no fish and people were in a bad way. They could not get any fish because the caplin would not come in, and caplin did not come in because the water was polluted by the earthquake.

If we have an earthquake with that disastrous plant there, unless it is properly taken care of, it will destroy the whole fisheries in the Placentia Bay. Who knows what it will do to our fish markets around the world? We must be very careful of that.

I will say that the Government has come across very well and are aiding in the recovery. I want to congratulate the Honourable Mr. Davis, the Minister of Fisheries, for what he has already done. I think they must have a guilty conscience in the Fisheries Department, because Mr. Smallwood, as you know, said that the construction of that Erco plant was okayed by the federal Government and by the Department of Fisheries. A couple of

days ago Mr. Davis, in St. John's, Newfoundland, denied that and said that there was no such confirmation by the federal Government. I do not know the precise facts about that. It just shows how careful the various departments of agriculture and fisheries have to be before they allow things like this to happen.

Once again, let me say that I, on behalf of our fishermen in Newfoundland and also the fishermen from the west coast, am very grateful for the increase in loans from \$10,000 to \$25,000. That is only just and honest, because you know it costs about three times as much to build a boat now as it did 10 years ago.

I have no criticism whatsoever to make of this bill, and I congratulate the sponsor on his introduction of it. I do hope that every fisherman in Newfoundland, who possibly can, will be taking advantage of it.

Hon. G. Percival Burchill: Honourable senators, first of all, I want to congratulate my colleague from New Brunswick (Hon. Mr. McLean) on the excellent manner in which he explained this legislation and to support Senator Hollett in the remarks that he made with reference to the life of the fisherman.

This debate gives me the opportunity of informing the Senate of a very moving ceremony which is to take place tomorrow in my constituency, 25 miles from my home, in the Parish of Hardwick at Baie Ste. Anne, in which a monument will be unveiled to the memory of 35 fishermen who lost their lives in a fishing disaster 10 years ago tomorrow.

I pay special tribute to Brigadier Wardell of Fredericton, because immediately at the time of that disaster he was most effective in arranging for a fund to be subscribed to the families of these fishermen. Throughout the past 10 years that fund has been administered by Brigadier Wardell in a very wonderful way. With his assistance, those families have been taken care of. Sir Max Aitken gave the total contribution for this monument. My only regret is that I cannot be present at the ceremony. I am sure there will be people from all over the province there. The then Premier of the Province of New Brunswick, Hugh John Flemming, is to be one of the chief speakers. Indeed, it will be a very moving ceremony.

This event points up what Senator Hollett said about the life of the fishermen and the hazards and dangers they face. I am sure that we all must join in support of this measure,