

coast, he replied that it was the purpose of the government in this legislation to deal only with salt fish and that the needs of the salt fish men on the Atlantic coast were greater than those of the fresh fish men on the Pacific coast. Some of our fishermen on the Pacific coast have reluctantly had to accept relief in the past, and there are many more living close to the edge of it. I do not think the minister would like to have it said that he has introduced in this house as Minister of Fisheries legislation which confines its scope to only one section of the country, and that he is ignoring the needs of those on the Pacific coast. I suggest that he would at least placate or gratify or interest the fishermen on the Pacific coast, provided he does not see his way clear to bringing them under the scope of this bill, if he announced that it was his intention to abandon the use of fish traps. That would keep a good many off relief.

Mr. SPENCE: I agree with the hon. member for Comox-Alberni that this board should take account of fresh as well as salt fish. I have been in every part of eastern Canada and I know that the system followed in the maritimes is antiquated so far as fresh fish is concerned. I do not think the board should devote all its time and attention to salt fish. Let me assure the committee that I am not opposing any grant to this particular industry any more than I am opposed to assistance being given to the producers of wheat or any other commodity. We are living in Canada and we should help one another. In my opinion altogether too much distinction is made between east and west. This is not a provincial legislature; it is the dominion parliament and we should discuss matters from the standpoint of the nation at large. We should forget all parochial considerations. No one ever hears me discuss my own province exclusively unless I am absolutely forced to do so, because I realize that we are not here simply to advocate what suits the convenience of our own particular part of the country. Our job is to keep confederation together. We know what deplorable conditions have prevailed in western Canada for a number of years and we are prepared to help the people there, and we should be equally prepared to assist the fishermen of eastern Canada.

Having said that, however, I suggest that people will have to learn to help themselves very soon. The more you help some people the more indolent you make them, and if you keep up that sort of thing too long you will soon have a nation of imbeciles and no one will be allowed to act for himself.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, no.

Mr. SPENCE: Oh, yes. That is what will happen, because the policy my hon. friends to my left advocate, the policy of fixing a price for this, that and the other thing, would tend if it could to rob the farmer of his brains. The farmers do not need all these boards that are being established. I know something about farmers and they know a good deal about business. They are astute and they know how to market their products. I object to all these boards, which are going to cost the country a good deal of money. The Minister of Agriculture is going to set up three or four boards at great cost to the dominion, and now we are to have another board in connection with the fisheries. Surely there are enough men in the department, loafing around on the job, to undertake this work. I have seen some of these officials of the Department of Agriculture—inspectors, supervisors and others. If the Minister of Agriculture sets up a board for everything that comes along he will have the most wonderful organization he ever had in his life to elect the Liberal party in Saskatchewan. If my party were doing this I would denounce it on the floor of the house because I do not believe in this sort of thing on the eve of an election. If I could not exert some influence on my own party I would not be in it.

I do not speak very often in this house because there are so many who want to talk and say nothing. When I get up to speak I try to say something. I am not trying to hurt either the Minister of Fisheries or the Minister of Agriculture, who are both good men.

Mr. MANION: Nor any of the rest of us, I hope.

Mr. SPENCE: No; I do not want to hurt anybody. We are all men of common sense, or we should be. The Minister of Finance is laughing at me as usual.

Mr. DUNNING: Only smiling—and it is a kind smile.

Mr. SPENCE: Seriously, I suggest that we should get down to business and stop making charges across the floor of the house, east against west, and vice versa, making long-winded speeches. There are hon. members who speak for half an hour before they start to say anything worth while—what they have said in the last ten minutes. I know one hon. member who spoke for two hours one day and said nothing. I am not trying to disparage him. That is his policy—to make a two hour speech and say nothing. My hon.