

*Northwest Atlantic Fisheries*

is located the Georges bank, which is a very important fishing area. The only two contracting governments represented on this panel are Canada and the United States. As the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Sinclair) pointed out in his statement at the resolution stage, Canada and the United States have had much experience in this type of convention. It is not surprising, therefore, that the first recommendation should come from this panel. After much research and scientific study a recommendation was made by this panel that the size of the mesh in trawl nets used for haddock be reduced. It was, therefore, necessary to pass legislation to permit the governor in council to make regulations which would apply to Canadian nationals in the convention area.

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** I should like to comment on the remarks made by the minister the other night, Mr. Speaker. He made the announcement for the first time that Dr. Bates was to be the first chairman of the commission. During my short interest in fisheries I have found that he is highly regarded, and we all consider it a great honour that he is representing us in this matter.

It was pleasing also to hear that Halifax had been chosen as the permanent site of the commission. Over my way we are partial to St. Andrews, so we are a little disappointed that St. Andrews is not included in the new plan. We are pleased, however, that the commission has a site in Halifax.

I have been going back over the story of this convention during the late forties. It was ratified by the house in 1950, but I cannot seem to find reference to the fact that the convention generally has been considered by the standing committee on marine and fisheries. I appreciate that it is perhaps not controversial, but I do think there has not been too much interest shown, either at the resolution stage or upon ratification. I felt also that members from Newfoundland, who should be concerned about one area, did not seem to be too worried over it. I feel that I should ask that this convention be referred to the standing committee on marine and fisheries. The request is subject to the reservation that it has not been considered before.

**Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, I noticed when the parliamentary assistant was making his statement he mentioned the fact that, by agreement, the mesh in drags had been made smaller. Did he mean smaller or larger?

**Mr. MacNaught:** Smaller.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** If he has the information I would appreciate his pointing out what advantage there would be in a smaller drag mesh.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite):** Perhaps the hon. member would not mind my reminding him that we are not yet in committee on the bill.

**Mr. S. R. Balcom (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the concern of the hon. member for Saint John-Albert (Mr. Bell) when he said that he thought St. Andrews might have been considered as a location for the offices of the northwest Atlantic fisheries organization.

The members from Halifax feel that this time we should express our gratification in the fact that, after considering the excellent locations in many other cities throughout North America, Halifax has been the chosen city. Perhaps I should reverse the order of those words and say the "city chosen"—because I think we already are the former.

We are very grateful to those other cities and universities, including Harvard, and Memorial College at St. John's, Newfoundland, that have so gracefully acceded to the final decision in favour of Halifax and Dalhousie University. In locating in Halifax, we would like to give credit first of all to Dalhousie University and its president, Dr. Kerr, where quarters and other facilities have been supplied. We would also refer in the same connection to the Halifax board of trade which, through its endeavours, showed the advantages of Halifax over many other places considered. In this connection, too, I would include the government of Nova Scotia for supplying the necessary furniture for the offices.

While the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Sinclair), his deputy minister and his parliamentary assistant could not at any time show preference for one part of Canada as against another, we would like to thank them for their earnest efforts in convincing the commission that Canada is the ideal country in which to locate this set-up. The work of the commission, I understand, is under the able leadership of the noted Danish scientist, Dr. Poulsen, and the work is proceeding well. Extensive and satisfactory scientific progress is being made.

It is hoped, and I feel sure the hope will be realized, that through conservation methods introduced and carried out by the commission, stocks of fish will be conserved to such an extent and at such a level that the maximum catch will be available for many future