

Supply—Fisheries

he did not have time to visit my constituency of Gloucester. However, to my mind it would have been much more profitable if the minister had made a personal visit to the large processing plants established at Caraquet, Shippegan and Lameque, where he would have seen in operation the largest and one of the most modern fishing fleets of its kind on the North American continent. I sincerely hope that in the future, and it may have to be at a very early date, he will take into consideration the advantages of such a visit. After all, Gloucester county produces a larger variety of fish, more species of fish than any other constituency in the Atlantic provinces and probably in Canada. It is not my intention to make elaborate remarks at this time in connection with the estimates now before us for consideration. There are, however, a few points which I would like to bring to the attention of the minister and his department at this time.

In its report on the commercial fisheries of Canada, the royal commission on Canada's economic prospects, known as the Gordon commission, seems to indicate that along our Atlantic shores the secondary fishing, or maybe the less important operation known as shore fishing, was more or less inclined to gradually disappear. It is true that on the Atlantic coast the great fleet of dory schooners has virtually disappeared and has been replaced by a steadily growing fleet of draggers, long liners and other modern craft. It is also true that following a greater diversification of industry in the Atlantic provinces the dependence of the coastal population on fishing has been reduced throughout the Atlantic region. However, I feel that opportunities for profitable investment in this secondary industry are still open and it would be disastrous to the economy of the Atlantic provinces if the shore fishing, that is fishing with small boats within five to 10 miles from the shore, disappeared. Here is where government intervention is called upon to play a significant role and here is a problem which should receive immediate and most careful consideration and study by the Department of Fisheries.

A few months ago the fisheries research board of Canada published the report of the Atlantic herring investigation committee. This report tells of the co-operation of six governments, five provincial and the federal government, in seeking the basis for a more lucrative herring fishery in the gulf of St. Lawrence region. The discovery of new stocks of fish and of better and more modern ways of fishing and catching them is playing a large part in the expansion of the fishing industry which has shown such vigorous signs

of progress in the last decade. This investigation committee, at a total cost of \$281,000 to the different governments, has provided the background and impetus for the continuation of herring exploration on a larger scale by the fisheries research board. Now that this committee has attacked the problem of learning how to catch and find more and better herring, now that its findings are known and have been made public, the time has come to put those findings into practice.

We have in certain sections of the gulf of St. Lawrence a fall herring run of a quality unequalled anywhere in the world. There is a growing demand on the Canadian and United States market for this particular variety of fish processed as vinegar-cured or otherwise. We also have along our shores small settlements where fishermen cannot and will never engage in what is known as deep-sea fishing, such as is carried on in draggers or long liners. We also have settlements where the population has for generation after generation been employed in fishing operations and where the condition of the soil makes it impossible for this population to engage in farming or lumbering. These are the people whose only means of living is by fishing, and this is a class of fishermen which should receive the full protection and co-operation of the department.

I feel that the department, through its fisheries research board, should undertake at once practical herring fishing operations in the gulf of St. Lawrence-Baie des Chaleurs area in order to determine once and for all whether this spasmodic fishery can be improved and carried on economically in a practical way by individual commercial fishermen. I would suggest that the fisheries research board take into service the local fishing vessels of the small dragger type and operate them from June to November, for at least a full season. One should be equipped probably with a purse seine and the other with a substantial set of drift nets or gill nets, also with full echo sounding devices in order to determine once and for all whether the antiquated methods of herring fishing in the area cannot be improved in a sound and economical way. Here I am making an exception of the bay of Fundy area where sardine fishermen are using more modern methods to catch fish. There is a possibility that an adequate midwater trawl could provide an efficient method of catching herring in our waters.

I realize that the department, through its protective service, has done considerable work in the last four or five years, and has to some extent improved the severe problem facing our lobster industry. At every opportunity since I have been a member of this house