

in this country can think that the beam trawler is necessary at the present time for the success of the fisheries. Some years ago the Maclean commission was appointed to report on conditions in the maritime provinces and they reported against the use of the beam trawler. Doctor Cyrus Macmillan was perhaps the strongest member of that commission advocating abolition, and he became Minister of Marine and Fisheries later on. He is now a professor at McGill university. It is true that Judge Maclean, for whose opinion I have a high regard, had a different opinion from that of his colleagues, but that difference was quite small. In effect he said that the beam trawler should be used only for the purpose of taking up the slack, to use the vernacular of the fishermen; he said that it should be used only when necessary to provide a continuity of supply.

The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Cardin), who was then Minister of Marine and Fisheries, presented an order in council to the government, which he said had been prepared with the assistance and on the opinion of his deputy. The government passed that order in council, which in effect, entirely prohibited the use of the beam trawler. This order in council was questioned and it became the subject of litigation in the courts. After an adverse opinion had been rendered by one court, an appeal was started, which was later withdrawn. The tax was paid back to the one firm that had paid it.

Another order in council was passed by the government of the right hon. gentleman to my left which set out in effect that beam trawling would be permitted only if it did not interfere adversely with the line fishermen, and that before a licence would be issued the minister must be convinced that they would not decrease their purchases from the line fishermen. In the face of this order I have received resolutions from groups of fifty, one hundred or two hundred fishermen in my county who have been laid off by these same companies and who have since been unable to get any work. I contend that if there ever was a time when the provisions of that order in council should be enforced, it is the present.

Then we had the Jones commission which investigated the economic conditions of the province of Nova Scotia. That commission reported, recommending that the beam trawler be gradually abolished. They pointed out that it was not necessary. I am not giving my own opinion. My opinion is the opinion of the fishermen whom I represent, and they are unanimously against the beam trawler, but

[Mr. Kinley.]

that is not the opinion I am giving now. I am quoting the opinion of scientific men who heard the evidence. The Minister of Public Works himself travelled along the coast taking the views of fishermen from place to place. The beam trawler people themselves say it is not essential to the carrying on of the industry.

This matter was before the price spreads committee at the last session and that committee reported against the beam trawler. With one exception, Mr. Young of Weyburn, the committee was unanimously in favour of the report against the beam trawlers. Mr. Young was in favour of the trawlers but all the others reported absolutely against them, and in the course of the evidence given before the committee the hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. Stevens), who was then chairman, made a comment which I should like to read. I quote:

By the Chairman:

Q. Just before you leave that, may I say this: your idea is that an international arrangement be made to discontinue the use of those trawlers?

A. Surely that would be the logical thing to do, for there is not any necessity for beam trawlers to have continuity of supply; and they are a great expense to the companies who are operating them. They admit that themselves very frankly. I know the president of the National Fish Company, Mr. Britton, and that particular year I was here on the subject of advertising, and he admitted to me that the only reason they wanted beam trawlers was that it gave them a certain amount of independence.

In other words, they want the beam trawler as a club to hold over the fishermen. Not a great amount of fish can be caught by the trawlers. There are three trawlers and it is estimated that each can catch nine million pounds of fish a year, or twenty-seven million pounds. Personally, I think that is an exaggeration, but those are the figures. Now that is a large part of the deep sea catch in Nova Scotia. We may be told that they do not catch a large percentage, but the fact is that it puts the beam trawler corporation man in the position where he is a primary producer and he can say to the fishermen, "I have a beam trawler coming in to-morrow; you take what I give you for your fish or you can go home." The fisherman has no bargaining power.

We are not opposed to the beam trawler as an economic factor; we are not opposed to progress. But it is not real progress, for the fishermen can produce better fish more cheaply than the trawler can. And what is more, the fishermen do not destroy fish. At this moment the United States government is concerned about haddock fishing on the banks