

The Address—Mr. Ashbourne

land have meant bread and butter to our people. We have also our salmon fisheries, our lobster fisheries and our herring fisheries.

I was greatly taken with the desire of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Mayhew) to give aid to the fishermen. In Newfoundland the fisheries have been our chief mainstay and, as I said before, they offer much by way of food to the people of the world. For example, let us consider the herring fishery. The herring is one of the most important of food fishes, and they are found in our bays and along the Labrador coast. We realize that at the present time, on account of the devaluation of the dollar, if we are to keep up consumption in the export markets we may have to reduce our fish prices. On the other hand we sell a considerable quantity of codfish to Puerto Rico. There we shall receive American dollars which, I trust, will offset some of the loss which may be incurred by the devaluation of other currencies.

In Newfoundland we have an organization called NAFEL. This is the Newfoundland Associated Fish Exporters, Limited, which organization handles the sales of codfish for the exporters of Newfoundland. We have learned from experience the evils of consigning fish to markets without receiving payment beforehand. We have also learned to our sorrow of the cutthroat competition when, in order to make a sale in a market, one exporter might be inclined to undercut another. I am happy to say we now have NAFEL, which is looking after the exporting of our codfish.

I should like briefly to refer to a few of the matters included in the speech from the throne. In my opinion this was a good speech, forecasting as it did important legislation, some of which has already been placed before the house. It is my hope that the dominion-provincial conference, which in my opinion is a worthy project, may result in profitable progress, and may achieve the desired end, with each participant actively motivated toward a common goal. By that method I am sure the best possible results will flow for the people and the nation.

The right to amend our own constitution should surely be our own prerogative. It seems to me we must continue to strive with determination and in the spirit of co-operation not merely to find temporary solutions for our problems, but adequate and lasting ones, in all the matters which we undertake. I am pleased to see the increasing interest taken in national health, which primarily, I understand, is a provincial matter.

May I say that in my first speech in the house I realize that I have much to learn. I am only a beginner here, and there are

many directions in which I shall have to make progress slowly. It is not easy to change quickly from one course of procedure to another. The amount of \$30 million voted at the last session of parliament to be divided among the provinces was, in my opinion, a proper step. I am afraid, however, Newfoundland may be unable to participate in all the various grants.

For example, I am not sure that we shall be able to take up the amount of money which was voted for cancer research. It would be, I think, a great pity for any amounts that we could not possibly take for the different sections for which the votes were granted to go into a dropped balance. I trust that if there are any such amounts which cannot be used for grants as indicated, they may be credited to Newfoundland, and given to us for certain other medical and health purposes. For instance, I have in mind hospital construction. We have in Newfoundland a health problem. Those grants in toto could be used for various purposes in Newfoundland to which we could profitably put them. We have several cottage hospitals, as well as private hospitals. We have the hospitals in the north operated by the International Grenfell Association, which operates a large hospital at St. Anthony, and also on the coast of Labrador. We have at my home town of Twillingate a memorial hospital built as a memorial to the men in world war I who laid down their lives in that great conflict.

On August 17 last we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Notre Dame Memorial hospital. Newfoundland being an island, our main means of transportation is by boat, and in Newfoundland the people are scattered among the various outports around the coasts. I was talking to Dr. Olds, the superintendent of the hospital in Twillingate, just shortly before I left. It might be interesting to note that he is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins university. He has been at Twillingate for quite a period. He is the missionary type of doctor and at one time during the war he practically carried on single-handed at this 130-bed hospital. He was telling me how much he would like to have an aeroplane in order that cases might be brought to the hospital more quickly. We were delighted to hear that the United States government has donated a large sum of money for the building of a hospital at St. Lawrence on the southwest coast of Newfoundland.

We in Newfoundland are looking forward to the building of the trans-Canada highway and we hope that a highway will also be built across Newfoundland and Labrador. We understand that a ferry service across Cabot