

*Supply—Fisheries*

accept deliveries immediately when the marketing should be spread out from now till June 30. The boards in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick have set up policies to provide for the orderly marketing of potatoes throughout the remainder of the season. In New Brunswick producer allocation is being carried out. No doubt there will be considerable complaint since each producer will consider that his potatoes should have top priority, but the government considers this is a matter to be worked out by the boards concerned in their respective provinces and does not propose to interfere.

The meaning of that is that the boards that have been set up are, we think, marketing the potatoes in a reasonable way. While this statement does not include the exact figures asked for, it does include the results, namely, that there are not any more potatoes being offered from the two provinces of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick this year than were offered last year, and if sales this year down to the 30th of June are as good as they were last year the potatoes will be pretty well marketed.

**SUPPLY**

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

## DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

General services—

129. Departmental administration, \$315,090.

**The Chairman:** Hon. members will find the vote on page 21 of the blue book and the details on page 187.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Would the minister care to make a statement?

**Hon. James Sinclair (Minister of Fisheries):** I could make a statement now or speak on each item. If hon. members would rather have a short summary of what has happened in the last year, perhaps we could go on from there.

**Mr. Pearkes:** I think it would be helpful if the minister would make a statement.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Perhaps I should start off, for the benefit of the new members, by just touching briefly on the division of jurisdiction between the federal Department of Fisheries and the provincial departments of fisheries because there is some doubt in some members' minds about that point. Under our constitution the federal government has complete jurisdiction over fisheries, but over the years we have worked out with the provinces what is a very satisfactory arrangement under which they usually administer sport fisheries, which are of course of primary value to them

in recreation and the tourist trade, and we handle the commercial fisheries, especially those of the two coasts. The federal government passes all regulations concerning fisheries, even for the sport fisheries of the provinces, and of course do the research work, and the inspection of fish for interprovincial trade or for export.

Last year, when our estimates were before the house, our principal concern was about markets because the market for fish was quite depressed which, of course, reacted through to the industry and to the fishermen. Here in Canada we are on the front doorstep of two of the greatest fisheries in the world. We produce a great deal more than we consume, so actually between 75 per cent and 85 per cent of our fish is exported. We are, therefore, very vulnerable so far as changes in price or changes in export trade are concerned.

Last year we had a carryover of about one million cases of salmon on the west coast. Salmon is our most valuable fishery. Last year it netted the fishing industry about \$47 million. Over and above that carryover, we had a prospect for a very large pack of salmon from the incoming runs.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** What percentage would it be?

**Mr. Sinclair:** It is about one-third of the total value of the fisheries of Canada, that is the west coast salmon.

You will recall that we had a very difficult situation in the maritimes in connection with the sale of filleted fish, which is their great export, to our best market the United States because there was a great influx of fish from Europe. There was a boundary dispute between Britain and Iceland and as a consequence a great deal of European fish had been diverted to the United States. This was one of the causes of the tariff hearing mentioned earlier by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew). Of course, this had a bad effect on our exports of fillets.

Newfoundland, where the principal product has been dry salt cod, experienced great difficulty in its traditional markets. Even those markets in which we could compete in price were blocked to us as a result of currency and other difficulties. As a consequence of these circumstances, this time last year the whole fishing industry was in a quite depressed condition.

I am very happy to report today that there has been a great improvement since last year. So far as salmon on the west coast is concerned, we have cleared off this million case carryover. We had as well the record pack we expected, but today there is no surplus salmon in British Columbia. We have