

I claim that is not good enough for an industry which is today developing and in which success has already been obtained, not through the department, but by those engaged in the fishing industry.

We find also in the report of the board that they actually spent some little effort on a small fish called eulachon which comes to the Fraser river. I think it would be no great loss to leave the eulachon to the Indians and not bother with them from a marketing point of view. You can look through the reports of the Department of Fisheries and not find any mention of this fish, and yet the fisheries research board is spending some time in investigating it. It would be better if the department spent some time in finding out what happened to the great sturgeon of the Fraser river. I have in my hand a picture of a sturgeon caught when entangled in their net by gill net fishermen and weighing 633 pounds. It is worth fifty cents a pound, and a fish that was reckoned at one time and still is, as food fit for kings and for anyone. Yet no investigation of any kind has been made as to the cause of the decline or disappearance of the sturgeon. Only the odd few come into the Fraser river today. In the early days many sturgeon came into the river; at one time it was a regular fish on the market. From the fish that was caught the other day the fishermen took 100 pounds of eggs or caviar and received fifty cents a pound for the fish. The weight of this fish was not a record, because sturgeon up to 1,000 pounds have been caught in the Fraser river. The one that was caught recently weighed 633 pounds. In the light of this, is it any wonder that some of us who have read the report and know a little of the industry out there are not too enthusiastic over the research board. It was that and a lot more which caused me last year to make some of the rather harsh statements that I did.

I have pretty well covered the report in so far as British Columbia is concerned. In conclusion, I wish to say that I have a few suggestions to make and I trust that the minister will give them serious consideration. He may not be ready to adopt them all this year under the present amendments to the Fisheries Research Board Act. It is my opinion that the fishing industry as a whole should be represented on the board. It is true that there is one man, an estimable gentleman, on the board who at the time he was appointed, however, was not connected with any fishing company. Today it is felt by some that perhaps he receives some advance knowledge for his company from the research board. I am not

accusing him of that; I am merely stating what some of the fishermen believe out there. They believe also that there should be a representative fisherman on the board. There should be one representative of the fishing companies on the board and, of course, the minister is putting a representative of his department on the board. That is all to the good. I trust that he will give my suggestion serious consideration.

It is high time also that this board was brought closer and made—I probably should not say “made to cooperate” because the two words do not go together. There should be complete cooperation with the fisheries research board and the fisheries departmental officials on the coast and with the department in Ottawa. We cannot allow a board as important as the fisheries research board to remain aloof and apart and do their own investigating without correlating the entire fishing interests into a closer unity and thereby pooling all our knowledge and all our skill. As I resume my seat I want to say again how pleased I am that this first step has been taken. I say to the minister that the statements made last year were not an attack in any personal way against the fisheries research board. I made the statements so that some attention would perhaps be paid to the matter and I have the feeling that somehow or other it has brought some good results.

Mr. G. R. PEARKE (Nanaimo): I am sure the fishermen of British Columbia will be interested to hear that the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid) is interested in scientific research, and I am quite certain that his admission of that fact will carry a great deal of weight because his long experience and connection with the fishing industry are well known out there.

In some of the remarks which I shall make I shall endorse the facts that he has presented and also the recommendations that he has made, but I shall not take quite the same line of approach as he did. It seems to me, listening to his address, that he was holding up the fisheries research board, and particularly the biological station at Departure Bay near Nanaimo as a whipping boy for the government. It is not the fault of the research board; it is not the fault of the biological station at Departure Bay that they have not been able to accomplish as much as the industry would like. It is because they have not had the support of the government, and the government must take the blame and not pass it on to an organization which is not adequately supported.