

## Supply—Fisheries

items 152 and 157, a total of \$653,683. The minister should inform us what construction is proposed under each of these four items, and explain why they are placed in separate positions in his estimates in the items I have just mentioned.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I think what we should deal with now is item 148. It is the only item before the committee. The hon. member for Cumberland will notice that item 148 comes under protection branch; whereas the other item of construction or acquisition of buildings to which he referred, item 152, comes under the fish culture and development branch. It is always for a different branch. Therefore let us deal with item 148, which comes under protection branch and is for the construction or acquisition of buildings and so forth. Let us deal with this item now, and we can proceed to the other item.

**Mr. Riley:** Can the minister give me something in the way of a reply to my query?

**Mr. Mayhew:** I understand that some time ago they had a salmon pond in Saint John. It was destroyed and it was thought not advisable to build it again because it was interfering with some harbour works in Saint John itself. Not in my time has it been considered, but we shall be glad to take a look at it again and see if the situation has changed at all.

**Mr. Riley:** I would point out to the minister that where this pond was previously located such a thing did happen. Some harbour works that were going on did tend to render the pond useless, but in the vicinity of Saint John harbour, and in the vicinity of some of the coves of the bay of Fundy, there are ample locations for the building or the laying out of other ponds. Such a pond might also be set aside in Saint John harbour itself. I hope that in the interests of the fishermen in my constituency, and more particularly the fishermen in Saint John harbour itself, some real, active consideration will be given to this project.

**Mr. Mayhew:** This subject of the pond in Saint John has not been brought up in my time and the deputy claims it has not been brought up in his time. In reply to the hon. gentleman I said we would look at the matter again to see if the situation has changed. Possibly there are some other locations where it would be proper and right to do this kind of work. I cannot give the hon. member any other promise than that. Last year we did extend the hatchery in Saint John. When I was down there myself I did not think the hatchery was in very good shape physically

and I suggested that we do some improvement on it. It has been improved and enlarged, and the other matter will be looked at as soon as we get a chance to do it.

**Mr. Riley:** I hate to differ with the minister or with the officials of his department. I know that this is something they cannot recall at the moment but I remember distinctly being in contact with one of the officials of the department and making the representations that were made to me by the fishermen who earn their livelihood by taking the salmon from Saint John harbour.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** There is one other matter that I want to bring to the attention of the minister. Perhaps it has been brought to his attention on many other occasions, but I have a suggestion to make. It is in connection with the size limit of lobsters in the maritime provinces. I am going to speak of the bay of Fundy area because I do not know the regulations that might be suitable in other parts of the maritime provinces. But I do believe that the department might well consider the idea of making a survey through their inspectors in the maritime provinces to determine for themselves the wish of the majority of the fishermen whether the size should be increased. I want to give a few examples of why in my opinion there should be an increase in the size of lobsters. The Conley Lobster Company, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, is the biggest exporter of lobster on the North American continent, and today they are selling in the United States of America about 95 per cent of the lobsters that they purchase. My contention has always been that you have to give the customer the kind of goods he wants regardless of whether or not you think he is right. Very recently I wrote to the manager of the company, and I want to put on the record the brief letter he wrote to me. He said:

In reply to your recent letter regarding size limit of lobsters, we are enclosing this week's price card, together with one of March 19, which shows great discrepancy between one pound lobsters and select lobsters.

However, this does not tell all the story, as we are now selling our excessive chickens for 35 cents which is below the current Boston market price, a copy of which I am enclosing. We are selling truck loads of chicken lobsters below the Boston price of lobsters as we are receiving more than we can handle of this particular size.

W. L. Williamson

Two price cards were sent to me. I hold in my hand one for January 29, 1951, which shows select lobsters, which would be two and two and one-half lobsters, selling for 90 cents a pound on the American market; at the same time chickens, which are small one-pound lobsters, for 60 cents a pound. On