

Inquiries of the Ministry
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

FISHERIES**NEWFOUNDLAND SALT CODFISH—DISPOSITION OF 1949 STOCKS—PRICE SUPPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. F. Higgins (St. John's East): I should like to direct a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Fisheries arising out of a press release of last Friday relative to Newfoundland fisheries. Has any decision been arrived at regarding the disposition of the surplus of the 1949 catch of Newfoundland salt codfish? Has any decision been made with respect to price support for the 1950 catch?

Mr. J. W. MacNaught (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries): The question of the hon. member for St. John's East is divided into two parts. The first part is whether any decision has been arrived at regarding the disposition of the surplus of the 1949 catch of Newfoundland salt codfish. I should like to inform the house that the disposition of the unsold stocks of salted codfish produced in 1949, and currently held in parts of the maritimes and Newfoundland, was discussed last week in Ottawa with representatives of the salt codfish industry from the maritime provinces, Newfoundland, and Quebec. No decision on disposition could be made with the insufficiency of available data. To provide this information the Department of Fisheries has this week dispatched investigators to Newfoundland to elicit information on the stocks held, the costs, and returns made on the various varieties of 1949 salted fish. Such information is necessary before the department can consider any recommendation to the government.

The second part of the question is whether any decision has been made with respect to price support for the 1950 catch. On May 9 the hon. member for St. John's East put substantially the same question to me, and the answer then given still represents the action the prices support board will be prepared to take if conditions should so require.

Mr. Higgins: I should like to ask the parliamentary assistant a supplementary question. Can he tell me the amount of the 1949 catch of codfish still held?

Mr. MacNaught: I cannot give the amount with any degree of accuracy. There seems to be some confusion in the minds of those connected with the fishing industry in Newfoundland as to the total amount still held. Some of the fish are held by fishermen, some by merchants, and there is some for which contracts are held; so the whole picture is quite confused.

Mr. Higgins: But it is a considerable amount?

Mr. MacNaught: It is a considerable amount.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR—DISTRIBUTION OF ILLUSTRATED CIRCULARS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, of which I have not had an opportunity to give him notice. There has just come to my attention an extremely well-illustrated circular issued by the republic of Czechoslovakia which is being distributed at the Canadian international trade fair, from space towards the cost of which the people of Canada make a substantial contribution. In view of the fact that the publication contains a good deal of propaganda for a communist state, will the Minister of Trade and Commerce indicate whether we have any similarly advantageous arrangement in Prague or any other city in Czechoslovakia?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I believe this is the third year that the republic of Czechoslovakia has been an exhibitor at the Canadian international trade fair. It is unusual for exhibitors to put out advertising matter. I have not seen the particular advertising matter to which reference has been made, but I shall have it examined. If there is anything seditious in it, we shall certainly stop distribution of it. So far as exhibiting in Prague is concerned, I may say that we have been invited to exhibit at that trade fair for the past three years, but to date we have not accepted the invitation.

Mr. Drew: I am not suggesting there is anything actually seditious. I am merely pointing out that it is extremely clever and well-illustrated propaganda for what is taking place in Czechoslovakia today.

Mr. Howe: I may say that trade matters do not ordinarily concern themselves with political matters, but since this has been drawn to my attention I shall see if there is anything on the political side to which objection could be taken.

Mr. Cruickshank: I should like to ask one question in connection with this picture. I have not seen it, so I hope the leader of the opposition will send me a copy; but is there a picture of the member for Coast-Capilano in that issue?

CANADA GRAIN ACT**ELEVATORS DECLARED TO BE FOR GENERAL ADVANTAGE OF CANADA—VARIOUS AMENDMENTS**

The house resumed, from Tuesday, May 30, consideration of the motion of Mr. Howe for the second reading of Bill No. 249, to amend the Canada Grain Act.