

*Supply—Fisheries*

mysteries of that particular fish. As the hon. member was speaking I thought that he was at least in a more fortunate situation than I, in that one of the fishing industries in British Columbia has completely disappeared. The sardine, whether large or small, is still in existence, but one of the unsolved mysteries on the west coast is the complete disappearance of the pilchard. The pilchard used to swarm in very large numbers, but to my knowledge no one has seen even one for a number of years.

I am very pleased that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is in his seat tonight to listen to the discussion we are having in respect of the Department of Fisheries. I am sure he was interested earlier in the evening when my colleague from Skeena was talking about the oolachan, which is of importance to many of the native Indian people on the west coast. In view of the situation the hon. member for Skeena described as existing at the mouth of the Kitimat river, I think perhaps I should explain that the oolachan which he presented to the Minister of Fisheries came from the Nass. I suggest the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, in his capacity as superintendent general of Indian affairs, should not lose an early opportunity of sampling these small oolachan, a sample of which I am sure the hon. member for Skeena would be pleased to provide.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a few words about a matter in which I think the superintendent general of Indian affairs and the Minister of Fisheries have a common interest, and perhaps the remarks I make in respect of this particular item during our discussion of the fisheries estimates will serve to shorten the remarks I might otherwise make during our consideration of the Indian affairs branch. I should like to call the attention of the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to some interesting comments which appear in a book entitled "The Indians of British Columbia" by Hawthorn, Belshaw and Jamieson, and which I believe is still considered to be a basic work as far as a survey of the situation in respect of Indians in that province is concerned. This information is now old but it was produced at the instigation of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in an attempt to provide a social and economic survey of the Indians of British Columbia. Perhaps I might refer briefly to chapter 10 which is entitled, "The fishing industry", the first paragraph of which states:

[Mr. Barnett.]

The fishing industry is by far the most important field of employment and livelihood for Indians in British Columbia. As shown in table III in chapter 7, more than 2,000 Indians derive their main source of livelihood from various branches of fishing itself, and another 1,000 or more, the vast majority of whom are women, from fish canning or processing.

The chapter goes on to describe the historic pattern of the industry as it has affected the livelihood of the Indian people. I think it is apparent that since the incursion of the white man into what was originally the basic means of livelihood of the native people of British Columbia the pattern has had its ups and downs with, unfortunately, a good many more downs than ups. I think it emerges rather clearly from a study of this chapter that the developments taking place at the time this work was produced and which have been proceeding at an accelerated pace since 1958 have tended to remove more and more Indian people from their proper status within this industry. On page 112 there is this reference to recent developments:

There have been a number of other important developments in the fishing industry of British Columbia in recent years. In different branches of the fishing industry and in different areas of the coast they present a somewhat confusing picture, in which it is difficult to assess accurately the present and future status of Indians in fishing and canning employment.

Then it goes on to refer to the rapid technological changes that have been taking place both in the fishery and processing sections of the industry. If the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration will refresh their minds with the outline contained in this chapter of the book it will become clear to them that one of the problems the Indian people have been and are faced with is that they have been pushed into a poorer and poorer economic position relatively speaking, and that by and large the relative efficiency of the type of fishing gear they have been able to acquire and use has declined in relation to the kind of gear used by the whites and by the Canadians of Japanese ancestry. This is presenting a most serious problem.

The book makes clear that many of the Indian people today are in the position of being marginal fishermen. At the conclusion of the chapter on the fishing industry as it affects the Indians there is an attempt to make some recommendations. The authors suggest that in some respects it may perhaps be better if many of the Indian people would move into other industries. I should like to refer to the last paragraph in this chapter