

the earliest opportunity whereby our products of the soil, the forest and the sea may be admitted to the United States market under most favourable conditions.

But Sir, notwithstanding the disadvantages in that direction a spirit of optimism prevails throughout the province of New Brunswick, and a feeling of the greatest confidence in the future. This spirit has been stimulated by the fostering influence of the government in the opening of wider markets and by the negotiations of the British West Indies treaty; and with the prospects of a greater expansion of trade with the Central and South American republics the agricultural population are bending their energies to a more intensive agricultural production. As a proof of that assertion I may say that the estimated value of our field crop production in 1927 was \$23,596,000. Of potatoes alone we had under cultivation 46,998 acres yielding to the farmers of New Brunswick at a conservative estimate a return of \$5,423,000. Not only are they directing their energies towards a greater agricultural production but they are also paying attention to the dairy industry. In 1925 our dairy production amounted to \$7,663,174. In 1926 it amounted to \$8,046,743, a production which is still insufficient to meet the requirements of the home consumption of the province, particularly in butter. If the same increase is kept up from year to year we shall very soon, I hope, have a surplus. Until then the agriculturists of New Brunswick will have no cause to complain of the effects of the Australian treaty in so far as its results upon the butter market are concerned.

Coming to the fishing industry of the province of New Brunswick, I must say that it is of the greatest importance to a large population located in the area extending from Campbellton on the Baie des Chaleurs to Cape Tormentine on the southernmost extremity of New Brunswick on Northumberland strait, an industry from which the fishermen benefited to the extent of \$2,375,000 in 1926, and \$2,520,722 in 1927. May I point out that the county of Kent occupies a very prominent position in that regard, particularly in the catch of lobsters and oysters. Within my constituency we have two lobster fishing seasons, one applicable to the district extending from Point Sapin on the north to Chockfish on the south, which opens on April 26th and closes on June 26th, and the other applicable to the district from Chockfish to River Philip in the county of Cumberland, Nova Scotia, opening on August 15th and closing on October 15th. Between the two last mentioned points there is unquestionably

great dissatisfaction among the fishermen due to the lateness of the opening date. I would point out to hon. members that owing to the prevailing high winds and frequent and sometimes very violent and disastrous storms, the fishermen are unable to overhaul their lobster traps, and as a consequence can avail themselves of but three weeks out of a period of two months. The result has been that a great many have abandoned their occupation. I therefore hope that the royal fisheries commission in their investigations will have found conditions such as to justify the recommendation that the lobster season instead of beginning on August 15th and ending on October 15th, begin the first of August and end the 30th September. I would further particularly recommend that in order that our fishermen may be protected in their at all times hazardous and dangerous occupation in the open seas of Northumberland strait, where frequent storms arise which are sometimes very disastrous to life and property, more protection be afforded along our coast. In this connection, I would point out to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Elliott) that in the county of Kent breakwaters are absolutely essential at St. Louis, Maillet's gully and Caissie cape for the protection of our fishermen along that part of the coast.

As regards the Duncan report, we are particularly grateful to the government for implementing the recommendations contained therein, especially the twenty per cent reduction in freight rates, a reduction which is and will be of incalculable benefit to the agricultural, commercial and industrial life of the maritime provinces. In regard to the recommendation with respect to railway matters in Kent, I hope the government will at an early day so adjust matters as to relieve the unsatisfactory conditions which have existed in the northern part for many years.

Another recommendation of the Duncan report, which is implemented and for which the fishing population are very grateful, is the appointment of the royal fisheries commission to inquire into fishing conditions in the maritime provinces. Its report when submitted will, I hope, tend in a large measure towards remedying the grievances of the fishermen and also towards a greater development of that very important industry in the maritime provinces.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to say that we have in New Brunswick a strong and virile population characteristic of the two great English and French-speaking races, living in the most perfect harmony and