

Supply—Fisheries

Bank of Canada deals in the bond market; but what is the securities investment account?

Mr. Abbott: This is the account in which the government purchases bonds for its own account.

In 1952-53, the amount of trading loss of \$40,072.79 in the securities investment account was written down in the finance books to non-active assets and accordingly constituted an expenditure charge in arriving at the budgetary surplus or decrease in net debt for the year. The purpose of this dollar item is merely to provide the necessary authority to write-off this non-active asset to the consolidated deficit account; it will therefore not involve any effect on the budgetary situation for 1953-54, nor on the net debt. Since it has already been written into the net debt and appears on the balance sheet as a non-active asset—this, in short, will permit writing it into the consolidated deficit account section from the capital and other non-active assets section of the net debt.

Mr. Macdonnell: In other words, this is a hazard that you take when you invest your money and get a return on it, rather than let it lie idle?

Mr. Abbott: That is right.

Item agreed to.

568. Government contribution to the superannuation account in respect of additional liability consequent upon the salary increases effective December 1, 1953, \$38,000,000.

Mr. Knowles: As I indicated a few minutes ago, it is not my purpose to initiate at this sitting a general discussion as to the position of retired civil servants. I do think however that another word might be said. Personally, I am glad to see the government taking whatever steps are necessary, such as this one, to keep the superannuation account in good shape, so that the good pension plan that civil servants working for the government now have will be retained in a proper position. But I think some day the minister will have to appreciate the position of retired civil servants who, when they learn that \$38,000,000 is being found by the treasury for this purpose, will wonder why it is that some corresponding sum of money, or perhaps less than that, could not be found to relieve their situation.

The minister does not seem to feel the force of arguments of this kind; but certainly that is the way these people feel. They have served the federal government in the past and are receiving low pensions. I hope that one of these days, perhaps even before the present Minister of Finance lays down this

portfolio, there might be an item in the estimates to cover the plight of these people.

Mr. Abbott: This item is merely to keep the fund solvent, not to add additional liabilities to it.

Mr. Knowles: I realize that. As I said earlier, I am glad to see the government taking whatever steps are necessary to keep the fund solvent so that the position of those who are now working in the civil service and in the public service generally will be protected. But I submit there is still an obligation to these other people, as well. As one of my colleagues suggested, let us keep them solvent too.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

569. Amount required to recoup the fisheries prices support account to cover net operating loss of the fisheries prices support board during the fiscal year 1952-53, \$36,526.

Mr. Brooks: Would the minister give a breakdown of this item?

Mr. Abbott: The breakdown is as follows: Newfoundland shore-caught salted codfish support program, 1952-53, deficiency payments to producers, \$37,903.52. This item also covers Labrador salted codfish support program, refund from board's agents, adjustment of total payments as of March 31, 1952, \$1,658.68, and an additional deficiency payment to the producers of semi-dry cure of \$280.29. That is a total of \$1,378.39, and that makes a net loss on the 1952-53 operation of \$36,525.13.

Mr. Brooks: Do I understand that that all goes to Newfoundland?

Mr. Abbott: And Labrador and, I believe, the north shore of Quebec. That is for salted cod.

Mr. Stick: Is that the final amount on the Labrador cure?

Mr. Abbott: That is the final, I believe so, yes.

Mr. Argue: When the administration is buying and selling the fish for which this subsidy is being paid, has it any control over the fishing operations that have resulted in the subsidy being paid?

Mr. Abbott: Perhaps the Acting Minister of Fisheries could answer that.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am not, strictly speaking, the Acting Minister of Fisheries. However, so far as Newfoundland salt codfish is concerned, at confederation an arrangement was made for five years by which Newfoundland Associated Fish Exporters Limited, under term 22 of the terms of union, was given a