

Supply—Fisheries

cost five cents and we have 91 copies left which means that we have a \$4.55 stock of this bulletin to inform the people of the maritime provinces of the truth about mussels.

Mr. Stick: Ruining the country!

Mr. Sinclair: The next title is "Ling cod". If the hon. member for Notre Dame de Grace had been a westerner he would have known that the ling cod is the second most important kind of ground fish on the west coast, as the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich knows, second only to halibut. In the interests of our fishermen and our industry as a whole we had to gather together into a single pamphlet the work of our scientists on ling cod, particularly as regards their feeding and breeding habits, their movements, and the type of gear used to catch them, together with investigations into the type of processing required and whether they should be killed immediately or put into tanks for transportation to the markets. All that information is incorporated in this bulletin, at a cost of 25 cents. There was a great demand for this publication. We issued many copies but we now have sixteen left which at a cost of 25 cents amounts to \$4.

Now an even better title of course for the hon. member's purpose is "On Themisto Libellula in Baffin Island Coastal Waters" at 20 cents a copy. We have 24 copies left which makes a total of \$4.80. This study was actually made by McGill University at the request of the Arctic Institute, and was published by our board. Again, if the hon. member had read this pamphlet he would have easily found out why it was done and why the Arctic Institute thought it important enough to ask McGill University to carry out this work. The key sentence is:

There is no doubt that in the eastern arctic of Canada this is one of the most important organisms in any habitat, terrestrial or aquatic.

Fishermen have described this as the grass of the arctic. It is a small plankton, a tiny little shrimp, on which the different fish feed. The Eskimos and residents of that area feed on the fish. They depend very heavily for their existence on the fish population. When this plankton disappears then the fish population also disappears as of course it is their primary food upon which they must depend. The Arctic Institute therefore asked that this study be made and McGill University carried out the study and we published this little pamphlet at what the hon. member feels is a scandalous waste of public funds. As I have said, we now have 24 copies left at 20 cents each.

[Mr. Sinclair.]

Mr. Hodgson: But the minister has not told us the full story. Tell us how many were published and mailed out.

Mr. Sinclair: That is the most interesting thing of all. Usually about two hundred or so are printed. The important point as far as waste is concerned is the amount which is surplus. There is this small residue of 24 copies left on this study on the grass of the arctic on which life in the arctic depends so much. I would emphasize again that this was a scientific study carried out by our own universities at the request of scientists and scholars who wanted information on this particular aspect of survival in the arctic.

Now there are two other titles in the hon. member's list. The one which excited most comment, I believe, was "The Speed of the Goldfish in Relation to Water Temperature", published in 1947. We have 13 copies of this left at 20 cents each, which means a surplus cost of \$2.60. You may say, "Why in the world is the fisheries department of Canada primarily concerned with commercial fisheries wondering about how fast the goldfish swims at different temperatures?"

An hon. Member: That is a very good question.

Mr. Sinclair: It is a very good question. Most people in this house have not much knowledge about fisheries. If I were to say my colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare had published a bulletin on the effect of tobacco tar in causing cancer in mice, probably the hon. member for Moose Jaw, who is a practical businessman, would say, "Well, suppose mice do get cancer? It would save us the cost of traps. Mice do not smoke anyhow." Others would know that this relates to lung cancer in humans. Questions with regard to this pamphlet are just about as sensible as that. In pathology medical people use, not human beings but two organisms, mice and guinea pigs, on which to conduct their primary experiments in order to determine the reaction on the research work they are carrying out. Most hon. members are aware of the study of genetics in regard to livestock. In that regard, not the cow but the fruit fly has been the guinea pig. In fisheries we use the goldfish for the same purpose. It is cheap, it is plentiful and it can be used in our laboratories as a guinea pig for our purposes. We asked the University of Toronto to carry out this study for a very good reason. We did not care much about the goldfish one way or another, but we wished to get the answer to certain important questions. We wanted to know how fish act under different