

Mr. MOORE: That fact may not be greatly related to these estimates, but I think it may be in point as far as the question of recommendations is concerned. As to fishing, Manitoba has a considerable fishing industry which is gradually extending northward. I recommend that the department lay plans for the building in northern Manitoba of a number of fish filleting plants at places where the fish have to be transported by air. If that were done it would be quite possible to expand the industry considerably. I think we can take a leaf out of the book which Saskatchewan has written in connection with the fishing industry. The Saskatchewan government has done considerable to expand the industry in the northern areas of the province. I suggest also that we investigate the possibilities of cooperative marketing of fish. Already Nova Scotia has done a great deal in that line.

After looking through the estimates it appears to me that no large amount of money has been allocated to the inland fisheries. How much money, for example, is to be spent in these estimates on fishing in Manitoba?

Mr. BRIDGES: I was most anxious that every hon. member who wished to speak on the fisheries estimates under this item should do so before I made any remarks, and then, as to individual items, I hope there will not be too much delay, since we are so near to the end of the session.

It is not my intention to make any extended remarks. Some fourteen or fifteen persons have already spoken on the estimates and it is impossible for me to reply to all of them, but I will deal with certain salient features of the remarks which have been made this afternoon and the other day. If I happen to overlook some of the matters which have been referred to I hope no hon. member will feel that I am deliberately neglecting to deal with his remarks.

I should like first of all to take this opportunity of thanking hon. members on both sides for the congratulatory and felicitous remarks which they have made on my appointment as Minister of Fisheries. I appreciate them sincerely. While I am a Liberal in politics I have always rejoiced in the fact that I have many personal friends of all political colours. There is nothing I cherish more than personal friendships; and whether my stay in this House of Commons be long or short I hope that I shall enlarge my circle of personal friends no matter what political party they belong to.

I am going to deal first of all with some remarks which were made the other day when

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the fisheries estimates first came up. I shall deal briefly with them, I hope to the satisfaction of the committee.

The hon. member for New Westminster made certain remarks regarding offshore fisheries and the recent announcement by President Truman. No doubt this matter has been brought to the attention of the Department of External Affairs, and perhaps it would be more appropriate that he direct his question to that department.

As I heard the various speeches which were made here I could not help but feel that sometimes the speakers considered me to be the Minister of Public Works, other times the Secretary of State for External Affairs, other times chairman of the wartime prices and trade board, and after the latest contribution I came to the conclusion that the boundaries of the fisheries department no longer extend from Sydney to Vancouver, but from Sydney to Singapore. I feel that I should deal with each of the criticisms as it affects my own department, and not endeavour to answer criticisms which really should be directed to other departments.

The question of lobster hatcheries in the maritime provinces and the possibility of establishing them was brought up both by the hon. member for Saint John-Albert and the hon. member for Charlotte. I should like to give a little information concerning lobster hatcheries, because apparently some idea prevails that they have never existed in Canada. The first lobster hatchery was built under the jurisdiction of this department at Bayview, Pictou county, in 1891, and fourteen others in connection with Long Beach Pond, Digby county, from 1903 to 1913, so at one time we had a total of fifteen lobster hatcheries in Canada. All fifteen of these were discontinued and disposed of in the year 1917. This, I find from information, was apparently as the result of a recommendation which was made by the fisheries research board, or biological board, as it was then called, to the effect that the lobster hatcheries at that time were not considered to be sufficiently successful in producing lobsters to warrant their continuance. The situation to-day may have changed; I am not saying so, but I assure hon. members who have brought up this question that it will be carefully studied and considered by the department and probably by the fisheries research board as well. I hope that I can make a further statement on the subject when the next session of the house comes around.

The hon. member for Saint John-Albert asked for some information regarding the item of \$1,200,000 which appeared in the war appro-