

*Supply—Fisheries*

Many cases such as I have described are brought to my attention. One, in particular concerns a hard-working, honest fisherman whom I have known for many years, living on Campobello island. He experienced an illness of long duration. The nearest doctor was in Lubec, Maine. An auto ferry connects Campobello with this town in Maine, a 10-minute trip across Lubec narrows. The nearest doctor he could reach in Canada would be approximately 70 miles. His health would not allow him to travel the 140 miles, return trip, to a Canadian doctor. The doctor in Lubec, knowing his financial circumstances, adjusted his charges for calls at his office and for medicines he provided. I am sure the cost would be comparable to any service provided in Canada. Nevertheless the prolonged illness resulted in an accumulated bill of nearly \$400. If this fisherman had entered a Canadian hospital the cost would have been three times this amount or more.

The Department refused to assume responsibility for this expenditure. There was no provision in the act which would cover cases such as I have outlined. I believe the act should be amended to take care of these emergency cases taking into consideration the fact that it was impossible to reach a doctor in Canada under the circumstances.

Many United States fishermen, particularly captains of freighters, have experienced the same thing while plying in Canadian waters.

**Mr. Broome:** Did you bring that up with the previous government?

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** No, I did not. I will be honest, I did not, because until last year this had not been brought to my attention as a serious thing. But there were three or four cases that year which were really serious cases. I would not have hesitated about bringing this up before any government. That is not in my make-up. I would be as willing to take this up with a Liberal government as with the Conservative government.

**Mr. Gardiner:** And more liable to get action.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** And more liable to get action. I believe some sort of a reciprocal agreement might be reached between the governments of Canada and the United States to cover cases such as I have outlined, since the United States seamen, as well, are covered by a similar insurance plan. This is a matter of great importance to those who go down to the sea in ships, and I can tell hon. members of many cases from my personal experience and knowledge of men who just could not have borne the expenditures connected with their illness without the benefit of this great service.

[Mr. Stuart (Charlotte).]

I am going, just once more, to refer to a very touchy matter. I am going to remind the minister once more of the great worry there is in the maritime provinces at this time about possible retaliation by the United States which might do a great deal of harm to our fishing industry. I believe this is under consideration in Washington at this very moment. The hon. member over there may smile, but I was in this industry for 25 years, and I believe I have some knowledge of it, and that I know the worry connected with it. I may state also that I went through the hungry thirties in this industry; I went on salt water four years alone to try to make a living, and for these reasons I believe I have some firsthand knowledge of what fishermen must go through in order to make a livelihood. Things are not good in the fishing industry today and I can assure the minister—and I know this is realized by every maritime member in this house and, I will say also, by the members from the Pacific coast—that this is a most serious thing—

**Mr. Broome:** What is it?

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** They have a fishing industry out there, too, if the hon. member does not know it.

**An hon. Member:** We sell to the U.S.A.

**Mr. Broome:** No, no. I am sorry, my friend, but may I interrupt you for a moment. We sell no salmon in the United States whatsoever.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** Where does your wood and pulp go, to Alaska?

**Mr. Broome:** We are not talking about pulpwood but about fish. Do not try to tell me that you are doing business with the United States.

**Mr. Baskin:** There is too much pulpwood going to the United States, too.

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** There is too much pulpwood going to the United States? I want that on the record. I want to show it to my friends in Charlotte because at this time 85 per cent of the pulp producers in my county cannot sell a cord of wood and if you can sell it for them they will appreciate it very much. They have the wood and the energy and they are willing to work but there is just no market there for them. Perhaps you think that these restrictions on the sale of Canadian commodities in the United States are a joke. I will admit that the *Globe and Mail* suggests we should put some restrictions on and as long as the press of this country supports such childish notions as that I do not know what we might expect. The maritimes and western provinces