

Supply—Fisheries

As an indication that the Department of Fisheries is keeping in touch with developments, I would point out that in 1952 the value of fishing gear in Canada was \$106 million. In 1958, the latest figures available to me, the value of this same gear had reached over \$114 million. The landed value of sardines in the maritimes in 1952 was \$1,797,000, while in 1959, only seven years later, it amounted to \$3,186,000. Although there was only a slight increase in the value of the cod catch, the lobster catch for the maritimes, excluding Newfoundland, in 1953 was \$13 million and in 1959, it was \$16 million. Although there has been an increase in the expenditures of the various departments over the intervening years, I think that these expenditures have been justified and have been worth while.

The department is now spending a considerable amount of money on research on the improvement of methods of catching fish, and rendering every possible assistance to the fishermen of Canada. I think at this time I should pay tribute to the minister and, through him, to his officials, for the work done by the department in the investigation of the Passamaquoddy power project. The Department of Fisheries carried out a long and careful survey of the project and formed a part of the two engineering teams that laid before the international joint commission the findings on which the commission based its report. Whether or not this power project is eventually undertaken is not now under discussion but the fact is that the Department of Fisheries, through the fisheries research board, carried out an excellent survey and gave real leadership to that commission.

I think I should make some comments on the unfair discrimination between fishermen in so far as unemployment insurance is concerned. At the present time a very unfair and unjust discrimination is exercised as between the fisherman who catches fresh fish and the fisherman who cures fish. The man who cures fish is able to spread his contributions over a greater period of time and therefore receives greater benefits from his unemployment insurance credits than does the fresh fish man. I would suggest to the minister that some changes might be made in the regulations in order to correct this anomaly. I should like to mention also that, especially in areas where there are a number of fishermen operating at different times of the year and with different types of cure, the regulations should be looked at from time to time in order to ensure that each particular segment of the industry receives a fair opportunity for catching fish. I realize that this is difficult because we have overlapping seasons. However, in so far as the

[Mr. Stewart.]

government is able, it should endeavour to provide regulations that will ensure that no group is unjustly discriminated against. I think I should at this time also thank the minister and his officials for the co-operation and assistance given to the people of my area during the past few years.

Mr. Noble: Mr. Chairman, I am especially interested in the welfare of the great lakes fisheries; and I wish to say that the fishermen, sportsmen and many others interested in the great lakes fisheries are looking forward with satisfaction and anticipation to a visit to the Georgian bay and upper lake Huron area of the Minister of Fisheries. His proposed visit is an indication of his desire to secure first-hand information on the problems at present facing the fishermen of these waters.

Despite the fact that some success in lamprey destruction has been achieved, we still have a long way to go in the restoration of our fisheries to any degree of normalcy. Our biologists and researchers are highly respected authorities on the measures that should be taken in this program of rehabilitation of the great lakes fisheries industry. However, the men who man the fishing boats, many of whom have spent their working years on the lakes, have a wealth of knowledge and information that would also be useful in solving the big problem that confronts us. I therefore suggest that meeting with them will be time well spent and could bring to the fore some good practical ideas.

Several streams flowing into Georgian bay were treated with lampricide last year. It was evident that this treatment of these waters was attended by some success, as many young lamprey were destroyed and seen floating along with the current. We may have reached the point where we can control the lamprey, provided that we continue to treat their spawning beds periodically. It can hardly be expected that they can be completely eliminated from the great lakes. But then will this be the last barrier to lake trout production? Shall we find that the smelt has also taken his toll and that control of this predator will also be required before we can build up our lake trout and whitefish populations? With this thought in mind, I would continue to recommend the planting of sockeye and spring salmon fingerlings in the upper great lakes at the earliest convenient opportunity. These fish have proven their ability to survive in these waters and prospects are favourable to the development of a reproduction cycle.

The lake trout, whitefish and pickerel population of the great lakes was never lower than it is right now, nor was there ever a time when we had such an overwhelming population of predators and undesirable fish. There should be no hesitation on the part of