

Newfoundland

the question just put to him by the hon. member for Skeena, it looks to me as though it is the old story: it is a concession not to the men who do the work but to a privileged few. In the beginning the set-up sounded good, in that the marketing and export of fish were under the direction and control of a state fisheries board. Had it stopped there, one might have said "hear, hear." But, lo and behold! that board seems to have turned over all its rights and privileges to a fishing association, which is a fairly select group, if it is true that there is a fee of \$10,000. If that is the situation, I hope that the department will get out of it any advantages there are. But I also hope that, in the interests of the men who do the work, modifications of this set-up will be made as quickly as possible.

Mr. Archibald: Can that fishing association do what the fisheries council of Canada did with the west coast co-operatives, namely, turn down on political grounds an application for membership?

Mr. Mayhew: I do not think I should be expected to answer that question. There seems to be in the minds of a few of the members an impression about which I think I should say something, and it will take me only a minute or two. They seem to think that the coming in of Newfoundland and the bringing in of another \$30 million or \$35 million of business will in some way affect the industry in the maritime provinces. As a matter of fact, there will be no more fish for sale by reason of Newfoundland coming in than there would be if she stayed out. Both countries will be doing business in the same markets. I believe one will strengthen the other in looking for markets, and that both will be able to go after business together in a better way than would be possible separately.

Mr. Gibson (Comox-Alberni): In the event of a maritime fisherman finding it to his advantage to take his fish to Newfoundland, would he be entitled to sell his fish through NAFEL? Or conversely, would a Newfoundland fisherman be able to bring his fish to the maritimes and sell it through NAFEL? I refer to codfish.

Mr. Mayhew: That is salt fish. The answer is no.

Mr. MacInnis: I quite agree with the point the minister has made, that bringing Newfoundland into confederation does not increase in any way the world fish supply or the North American fish supply. The fish supply is much the same as it was before; that is, the production of Newfoundland as a dominion and the production of the maritime-province section of this dominion will

be much the same after confederation as before. But it may affect the maritime fishermen if the assistance given to the fisheries board, or to the organization that has been set up by the fisheries board—which, as has been mentioned, is a purely big-business commercial organization—will give the board a greater advantage in the markets of the world than the Canadian fishermen have under production conditions in Canada, where better labour conditions prevail—conditions which are none too good but perhaps better than they are in Newfoundland. That is the point I wish to make. I think we should be satisfied here, because of the understanding that the dominion government is to pay the costs of the fisheries board for the next five years.

Mr. Mayhew: We are paying only the deficit. I do not think there is any difference in the opportunity that Newfoundland has. I do not think the people are in any better position than we are in the maritime provinces at the present time. They operate some boats of their own between Newfoundland and the West Indies and have enjoyed that market right along. I expect they will continue to do so. Those boats will be taken over by the Department of Transport. There is in Newfoundland a bait-freezing service which I think is a better one than we have in Canada. We shall have to do something to improve ours so that it will be equal to Newfoundland's.

Mr. MacInnis: The minister said that, according to the terms of the agreement, Canada was undertaking to pay only the deficit in the administration of the Newfoundland fisheries board. Is that the statement the minister made? Before he answers, I may say that is not the way I read it in subsection 2 of term 22, which reads as follows:

Subject to this term, all fisheries laws and all orders, rules and regulations made thereunder shall continue in force in the province of Newfoundland as if the union had not been made, for a period of five years from the date of union and thereafter until the parliament of Canada otherwise provides, and shall continue to be administered by the Newfoundland fisheries board; and the costs involved in the maintenance of the board and the administration of the fisheries laws shall be borne by the government of Canada.

This subsection does not say anything about assuming responsibility for the deficit only.

Mr. Mayhew: There is in the hon. member's mind a little bit of confusion between the board and NAFEL. The board will be considered part of our official organization, will be treated the same as are our officials, and will be paid by the government.