

years ago they paid out \$158,000 for 7,300 fishermen and owners. Do you know if that is correct?

**Mr. Smallwood** The total amount is very small. I have the impression that the money for it is the annual interest on the Halifax Fisheries Award.<sup>1</sup> The interest on it is paid out each year to the fishermen as a bounty and the whole amount of it is small because it is only the interest on the capital sum....

**Mr. Hickman** About \$20 per boat?

**Mr. Smallwood** Something like that. I notice in the appendix to Volume 2, Black Book, page 115, "A brief description of the Fisheries Support Board." This is rather an important thing:

(ii). *A brief description of the Fisheries Prices Support Board and its functions.*

The Fisheries Prices Support Act was passed in 1944 and proclaimed in July, 1947, the Board under the Act then being named by the Government. The Act covers the fisheries products of Canada as a whole, and if Newfoundland were part of Canada, would apply there as elsewhere in the Dominion. In the event of Newfoundland entering Confederation, the Federal Government would wish to reconsider the present membership of the Prices Support Board, with a view to having proper Newfoundland representation on the Board itself. Likewise the Board, which has named three Advisory Committees (one representing the west coast fishery, one the inland, and one the Quebec and Maritime fishery) would probably wish to add to its advisory groups representatives of Newfoundland fishermen, producers and exporters, or if the people preferred to have the Newfoundland Fisheries Board act in an advisory capacity on Newfoundland fishery matters....

The Act outlines the powers of the Board (section 9). It will be noted that these powers are mainly those powers are mainly those of buying and selling fisheries products, either directly by the Board itself or through agents, and the powers of paying deficiency payments. There is nothing in the Act to prevent the Support Board from naming the Newfoundland Fisheries Board or any of the Co-operative marketing groups in New-

foundland as its agents for the handling, that is buying and/or selling Newfoundland fisheries products. In short, there is nothing in the present Canadian Act that would necessarily interfere with the present organization and methods of operation of the Newfoundland fish trade, and the Canadian Prices Support Board would, no doubt, wish to take advantage of all existing machinery that could readily be used to complement its operations.

The Prices Support Board, it should be noted, has no "wartime" powers such as were held by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. It cannot define prices as was done during wartime. It can influence prices mainly "through buying and selling, or through deficiency payments and it has no powers of allocation and no powers of directing the marketing of individuals or groups except when such persons are acting as the agents of the Board itself and handling the particular products being bought and sold by the Board itself. The Board can, of course, make its purchases and sales subject to certain standards of grading.

....We had a meeting with the fisheries authorities who explained to us fairly thoroughly the idea of the Fisheries Prices Support Board. If the price of fish begins to slip, especially in foreign markets, the Board may step in and by buying a quantity of fish help to keep the price from sinking. A very striking example of the way that works happened while we were in Ottawa. It was not fish — but the same principle is used — it was the apple crop of the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. They had a crop worth some \$10 million; ... Britain was buying the apples. Suddenly Britain said it could not afford the dollars; they thought they could use the dollars on something more necessary. They cancelled their order. The Canadian government stepped in and bought the entire crop ... and gave them away ... for relief in Greece and Italy and sent so many to Britain as a gift, to help out the apple growers of Nova Scotia. This Fisheries Board is supposed to operate in something the same way....

**Mr. Hickman** I am glad to note one very important clause, to my mind: "There is nothing in the

<sup>1</sup>A tribunal sitting at Halifax in 1877 in accordance with the Treaty of Washington, awarded \$4.5 million to Canada and \$1 million to Newfoundland.