

Newfoundland

important industry. It is the most important, not necessarily because of the annual dollar value of its products but because of the number of people engaged in it directly and indirectly and because of the unique way in which it has affected the whole economy of Newfoundland and even the character of the Newfoundland people.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre was quite right when he suggested that we in Canada might profit from the knowledge and experience of the Newfoundland fishing industry. To my mind, we stand to gain a great deal by coming into association with Newfoundland fishermen, shore workers and management in that industry.

I should like to pay a tribute to these magnificent people of Newfoundland. The Newfoundland fishermen come from a hardy race of men and by their courage and resourcefulness they have built up a long and honourable tradition of life on the sea. From generation to generation they have faced without question the challenge and the hazards of the sea; they have gone out in very small boats and battled the elements; they plied their perilous trade long before the advent of steam and other modern improvements and safeguards. In spite of the many obstacles they have had to overcome—and have overcome—they have forced their way into the markets of the world. They have succeeded, not only because of their initiative and courage but also because of their skill in the methods of processing and because of their attention to the quality of their products.

A comparison of the history of Ontario and Quebec and the history of Newfoundland would perhaps emphasize the contribution that fisheries has made to the heritage of the island. Here in the interior of Canada our forefathers cut down the forests, plowed and cultivated the land and reaped the harvests. Farming became the very backbone of our economy and was the determining factor in our social evolution.

Exactly the same thing occurred in Newfoundland, except that the sea took the place of the land. The harvests of the sea formed the substance of life for Newfoundlanders, and the life of the sea has left its impact on the character and the economy of the people.

The fishing industry is the one industry that has held Newfoundland together over the years. The sturdy fishermen have provided the island with the first line of defence from the very beginning. They are the real Newfoundlanders, and will make real Canadians. We should be proud to welcome these fellow Canadians.

I should like to quote, if I may, from a recent book entitled "Newfoundland", edited by Dr. R. A. MacKay. Dr. MacKay is well

[Mr. Mayhew.]

known in this city. The passage I wish to read is as follows:

At least as early as the sixteenth century annual fishing voyages began from western Europe, the banks becoming as well known to the fishermen of the west of England, of Spain and Portugal, of Brittany and Normandy, as the Caribbean was to the fighting men of Spain. Proximity to the fisheries ultimately induced permanent settlement in Newfoundland, and determined its distribution about the coasts. The annual fishing voyages ceased with the Napoleonic wars, and the English fishing industry became resident on the island. The local economy which developed was pre-eminently a fishing economy. A merchant class concerned with the export of the fish and the import and distribution of supplies was established on the island, particularly about St. John's, which early became the commercial capital. The whole business life of the island developed around the fishery. Retail merchants branched out to become wholesalers as well as retailers, importers and exporters, insurance brokers and ship owners, bankers, and in more recent times manufacturers. Although conditions have changed greatly within the past half century, the stamp of the fishing industry still marks the economic and social life of the island.

For four centuries, up to 1900, the fishery was the only industry in Newfoundland of any real significance. In the period 1901 to 1905 the value of fishery exports amounted to just over \$8 million out of total exports of \$9.6 million. Later the pulp and paper industry, and mining, exceeded fishing in the value of exports; but as I intimated before, from the standpoint of the number of people engaged in the three industries, the number in fisheries has remained in first place.

The fishery of Newfoundland has always centred primarily around the dried-codfish trade. Generally speaking, "fish" to Newfoundlanders means "cod". Recently there has been a development in the fresh and frozen trade. This branch of the industry, however, has tended to supplement rather than to supplant the salted fish production. In addition, Newfoundland has important lobster, herring, seal, and whale fisheries.

There is a wide range in the types of dried salted fish produced, and in the requirements of the various foreign markets. Newfoundland ships fish to many markets in Europe and in the western hemisphere. The Mediterranean markets of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece have long been the principal markets for Newfoundland codfish. Substantial quantities are also sold in such markets as Brazil, the British West Indies, and other Caribbean countries.

Dried codfish is essentially a cheap source of the protein used in semi-tropical countries, and its keeping qualities give it a decided preference over other protein foods. The fact that markets for dried codfish are, for the most part, in countries in which a large part of the population exists on a very low