

Mr. Hollett I hope Mr. Job did not think I was laying any charges against the merchants. I agree that merchants have many times done a good job. Our resources are of mushroom growth and mushrooms do not grow except under favourable circumstances. Our natural resources are our producers and unless co-operation is kept between the fresh fish industry and the producer it will go the way of the saltfish industry.

Mr. Job In the past the cake has not been large enough to divide. In the fresh fish industry we are trying to enlarge the cake so that there will be enough to provide for the primary producer.

Mr. Hollett If he believes that, why does he say the men who put up the money must be paid, must have their money back, must pay off capital expenditure?

Mr. Job I did not say "pay off" capital expenditure, but I do say "reduce" the expenditure. The plants will cost twice as much in say five years time.

Mr. Jackman In regard to merchants, we could leave them to organised labour. What we want to get at is the market. Have we any figures on the consumption of frozen fish in the United States?

Mr. Job We have figures.

Mr. Jackman How do they compare?

Mr. Job What we could supply is a mere drop in the bucket.

Mr. Jackman I think this mere drop in the bucket should be supplied in return for what we have given them in the past. I am referring to markets and prices.

Mr. Northcott In trying to get tariff concessions, I would suggest all fish produced in Newfoundland be embodied in this report.

Mr. Newell There is a very interesting item on page 6¹ showing the comparative years 1943 to 1946 — labour. In connection with operating plants, I wonder if the committee could make it even more illuminating. We might be able to obtain figures of how much fish was produced and what was the overhead and operating cost, and we might be optimistic enough to find out what the gross production was in dollars.

Mr. Job These figures were given us confidentially, and if it became necessary to ask for more information we could try to get it.

Mr. Ballam You notice that the amount paid to

the fishermen in 1946 is practically four times the amount paid for 1943, whilst that for labour has just doubled; either the fishermen must have done exceptionally well or the labourers were very poorly paid.

Mr. Harrington This is an interim report as I understand, and so far we have had a reasonably illuminating discussion on the various points contained in it, but there is a great deal of talk about fishermen versus the merchants, etc., and the real purpose of this afternoon's meeting was to get to the summary of the report. Mr. Smallwood has been very quiet, and I am sure that he has something to say, and would suggest we waive the rest of this discussion as time is passing.

Mr. Chairman Moved that the second section of the interim report as read and amended be adopted.

[The second section was adopted, and the Secretary read the summary]

Mr. Chairman Any comments on this concluding section of the report?

Mr. Ballam Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, in speaking on the interim report of the Fisheries Committee, the main object of which is the cold storage industry, may I first congratulate the committee on the excellence of their report, and the thoroughness with which they have reviewed the situation, in regard to the future of the industry, and the possibilities of its expansion. Mr. Job has given us an excellent resumé of conditions under which our fisheries will have to function, and stressed the necessity of markets, with favourable tariffs and trade relations, primarily with the United States. We feel that the concessions granted to the United States in the way of leases of Newfoundland territory for 99 years, together with free importations for use at their bases, use of roads, etc., should justify some adequate returns, and I concur with the report as presented in its entirety, but will add that more stress should be placed on other phases of the industry, particularly the herring industry.

In section 5, page 8², you do mention herring and its by-products such as oil and meal.... Coming from the home of the herring, I would be remiss in my duty if I did not point out a few facts that are peculiar to the industry, and of great

¹Volume II:213.

²Volume II:214.