

how we can know in advance just about what our fish will fetch as long as there is a demand for it — we can make one big contract with the association. We have gone from free enterprise to a controlled enterprise system.

Mr. Starkes Can Mr. Job tell us how long this will continue. We are still under Commission government — are we still under the rule governing export of fish for 1947-48?

Mr. Job I cannot tell you anything about it. One thing it would be fair to say about the Fisheries Board, is that they have done wonderful work.

Mr. Hollett Since when? It has all been done on a rising market.

Mr. Job When the boot is on the other foot, it will not be so easy; then they will be more useful than at any other time.

Mr. Vardy I think there is some mistake. I believe this price started in 1937 with the FPU and the fishermen in Bonavista Bay — that is where this finding out what we were going to get for the fish started. I think Mr. Brown had something to do with it. I have some recollection of that.

Mr. Job I do not think it was as far back as that. I hesitate to say whether you are right or not. If we had notice of such questions, we could look up the information. I think it happened during the war. I do not think there was any fixed price for fish in the spring of 1937 or 1938. Maybe Mr. Ashbourne could tell us something about it?

Mr. Ashbourne I cannot remember at that time what the procedure was; but as far as I am concerned, I think we have to thank the people for the high prices of fish; those who put the money here in Newfoundland — the consumers, those are the people we have to thank — people who were prepared to open up credits in Newfoundland and give us the money before the fish was shipped.

Mr. Smallwood Who were these?

Mr. Ashbourne The people who bought our fish. The price has been fixed in the past by the Combined Food Board, but that does not say that the people had to buy it; but they have been able to pay the high prices we got for fish this last few years. I saw in the paper two or three days ago a notice that codfish would not be under the Combined Food Board for 1947. As far as the 1946 production is concerned, the Food Control Board would look after that; I believe within the near

future probably there will be meetings of the various groups in Newfoundland in order to try and formulate a plan for the profitable marketing of the 1947 catch, and I trust that this will be done because in the past we realise it has been the means of stabilising the market. I hope the days of consigning codfish to Europe, Spain and Italy is over and we will be able to profitably sell our fish here and get the money in Newfoundland before it leaves our shores.

Another matter mentioned by Mr. Newell, about the Newfoundland Fisheries Board inspection — that this should be extended to fishing vessels and all premises where fish is handled. As far as I know the Board does not have to inspect any fishing vessels on the Labrador or on the Banks. The idea is that it might be advisable for some fishery inspector to examine these vessels before they go to the Banks and also see them when they come back; also Labrador fishing vessels. Codfish is an article of food for human consumption and the better the quality the higher the price we will get. And the more satisfaction from our buyers, naturally, will be when we give the best quality of fish. The government is to inspect the exporters' premises; whether this would extend to every fisherman's stage, I do not know.

Mr. Hickman I cannot see that there is any credit due the Commission of Government any more than any other government which may have been in power. It was purely the circumstances brought about by the war when the supply was shorter than the demand. They could guarantee to take any production and could guarantee prices because it could not be possible to fill the demand required. But with Norway getting back and Iceland and Great Britain in the producing and exporting market — Great Britain was a competitor in Brazil, in Rio and other places — when they get back, the supply will be greater than the demand; and I cannot see any possibility of being able to continue the setting of prices except through an international trade agreement. If all countries can establish a price then perhaps the fishermen will know what they will get. Until that agreement is made, I do not see how they can continue knowing in the spring what they will get in the fall unless the supply is shorter than the demand.

Mr. Fudge As a member of the Fisheries Com-