

and put in your stores.... It seems to me there is something lacking. Our men get no more money than the Norwegians and the Greeks. They get \$120 a month. I can assure you there is no place in the world where wages are so small as in Newfoundland today. We never got more than \$50 a month and often \$30. I never got \$30 on a Norwegian ship and I am sure they are as good as ours are. I am not satisfied with the answer given as to why we have not got a merchant marine. I think it is because there is an easier way to get money than to worry about where your ships are, and what they are doing, and where they are going to find freights. That's the trouble today.... You take the *Prospero* and the *Portia*,¹ they are still running, but they should have been diesel 25 years ago. These ships were repaired after they left here and I can't see why they could not have carried on to a ripe old age. The *Kyle* could have been turned to oil too, and when you look at the money that's spent every year in the coastal service of this country you can see that those ships are too costly to operate, and the same thing applies to everything. I would not be surprised that if Scandinavian or British owners came to Newfoundland they would make those ships pay, because in the first place you have got the men — 460 men today are under register up at the railway office waiting for jobs. I am sure it's a disgrace that our country has got into this place when you take the place we were in 60 or 80 years ago. We could have operated in the bad times for \$20 and \$25 a month and a lot of men would have been glad to get jobs, in fact I know men who signed on for \$15 a month to get jobs. I can't see why we pay more, and get more overtime. I believe something should be done in this line.

Mr. Hollett Speaking of the mercantile marine, it is no use to have a mercantile marine unless we have something to put in the bottom, so to speak. Those figures that Mr. Ashbourne has been so kind as to produce show that in 1945 we could apparently ship less than 2% of our fish as merchantable. What has happened? Did the Committee find out the cause? Is it possible that our people can't make Merchantable fish? I can believe now that the man who wrote that letter to Mr. Smallwood was real and his figures were real. What happened? Did you, Mr. Job, and your

Committee try to find out the trouble?

Mr. Job We think the standard has no doubt been raised in recent years.

Mr. Hollett You can't raise the standard of Merchantable fish, can you?

Mr. Job I will tell you an experiment we made. We got an amount of fish and had it successively culled by five different cullers and there was a tremendous difference each time. The difference between a Merchantable fish and a Madeira fish is very slight.

Mr. Hollett I don't believe the figures. There is something wrong. I think the Committee should have taken pains to find out what is wrong with it. If nothing is wrong, let's cut it out altogether and sell Madeira only.

Mr. Starkes In my opinion what is wrong is that years ago we always had our fish graded as merchantable, Madeira or West India. The people tried to get merchantable, which was the best price, but the past two years our fish has been graded as merchantable, Madeira, Thirds and West Indies. Thirds and West Indies are actually the same, but they have been receiving the same price for it as Madeira, Thirds and Madeira being the one price. They are not encouraged to make Madeira fish. If we had only three prices they would be encouraged to make good fish.

Mr. Job They are encouraged to make merchantable by the difference in price, but they can't do it apparently.

Mr. Smallwood I raised that matter in the first place, and I am wondering now about this 2% of all the codfish exported which is classified as merchantable. Is that the only word that is used? Is some merchantable fish exported from the country under some other name?.... Frankly I don't believe that only 2% of the fish exported is Merchantable. I don't believe it, and I am not going to believe the Fisheries Board or the Customs or the Chairman of the Fisheries Committee or anyone else. I just don't believe it. There is a catch somewhere. Does it go out under some other name, and if so what is that name? For instance take shore fish, which is one quality of fish that I know something about, and that Spanish shore fish, I have seen it packed — hundreds upon hundreds of quintals, in Bonavista, English Harbour, up the shore from Bonavista in Elliston — beautiful fish, as they say in

¹The *Prospero* and the *Portia* were Bowring Brothers' ships.