

averaging.... I was interested to discover the production of fish in the United States, and I found that besides importing 425 million pounds a year, she is producing herself something over 4 billion pounds a year — 12 times as much fish as she imports. The American consumption of fish is 32 pounds per year per capita. Of the 32 pounds consumed she imports three and produces 29 pounds. I wonder seriously, as I have done for more than a year, what is the future of the fresh fish industry of Newfoundland in the United States when times come back to normal, which we hope they some day will?

Now, this business of approaching America for special consideration for the admission of our fish.... I wonder honestly and sincerely what can we do with the United States. I ask the question sincerely, because I wonder sincerely what we can do. If they have indeed a multilateral policy, tariff action and trade agreements and trade treaties, and if it is a fact that they are trying to make up an international trade organisation, and if it is their policy not to deal in bilateral trade agreements, what can be done by this Convention or by the Commission of Government or by the Government of Great Britain or any other country? By all means let us try, but we have imposed on us in this Convention a very solemn and very important duty. We must face facts. It is because we did not that we lost self-government in 1934.

Whatever we can get out of the United States, I am all for it. I am all for having this Convention send a delegate there if they will receive us and if they are prepared to talk business with us.... I am as much concerned as any man for the future of this country, for the standard of our people's lives. I know that our people have never had a square deal, and I know they are not getting a square deal now, I know they are being looted and plundered. My own family, working class people, my father and mother and my brothers, are being looted. I happen to have been a bit luckier than the rest because a rich uncle educated me (after looting the people to get the money, and I happened to benefit from part of that looting), but I am still of the blood and guts of the class I spring from. If it becomes necessary to tell some of the truth I am quite prepared to tell it, but I do want facts to be faced. I don't want this Convention to be led down a blind alley, but let

us try with our eyes open, knowing where we are likely to land before we begin.

Mr. Butt Mr. Smallwood gave a lot of figures on the fish imports into the United States, and from the facts shown they are importing an extra million pounds per year. Do you mean to say we will not be able to sell any more fish in the United States?

Mr. Smallwood No, I did say that from 1937 to 1940 imports into the United States then as compared with now showed the present level is one hundred million pounds a year higher than before the war, the increase being accounted for, I suppose, by the world shortage of food, and particularly of protein-containing foods, but when that shortage disappears, and with American fishermen producing 12 times as much fish as they are importing from abroad, it will come back to the normal figure which is a lot less.

Mr. Job The imports today are of frozen and fresh fish, and frozen fish a few years ago was not in existence.

Mr. Butt You left the impression that we should get out of the fish business. It seems as if there would be no object in our staying in the business under these conditions. You did not mean that, did you?

Mr. Smallwood No, I did not mean that. I am wondering what will happen to our fish market in the States when the food situation returns to normal.

Mr. Higgins I have been listening very attentively to my learned friend Mr. Smallwood and he has had me practically hypnotized for the past half hour, but the salient facts are these. If Newfoundland is going to go ahead we have to look to the fish industry for the future. Because, from that much discussed Chadwick-Jones report the fact emerges that the greatest number of people gainfully employed in the country come from the fishing industry. That being so, it is to increase the earnings of our people in the fishing industry that we have to look to. The suggestion contained in this report, and in the address of Mr. Hazen Russell given yesterday before the Rotary Club is that the pick-up of the fish industry in Newfoundland must come from the sale of fresh frozen fish, and the people that run this industry, the pioneers and the people who are now putting their money into it, and in particular a man like Mr. Russell, seem to have an unbounded faith in