

connection with the salmon fishery. The English market had been lost; none of the people who had been marketing salmon had made any arrangements with the American market; where I happened to live the people had been salmon fishing for years and then found there was no way to dispose of the salmon. No one wanted them, so they thought. These people learned their lesson the hard way. I want to assure the Convention that they will never be caught in that position again. They have an organisation that will put it on the market for them. It seems to me that while it is not quite self-evident, while we ought to have a certain amount of faith in the produce of the country and in the fisheries, I, at any rate, do not hesitate in going so far out on a limb as to say that barring absolute blank catches, the fisheries can be so organised as to give a decent living to the people engaged in it.... If I did not think that, I would clear out of this country. We have to have a different approach from anything in the past.... While I concur with the government's putting more money into research; while I have nothing but the highest esteem for people who have faith enough to build cold storage industries and try to develop new markets; I feel there is one essential factor in the long or perhaps in the short run, the success or failure of our Newfoundland fisheries will depend to a very great extent on the people who are engaged in the primary production.

There are two ways we can get their interest

in their own welfare more than they have shown in the past: one is through educational methods, educating the people in the fishing boats to a better standard of values with regard to the produce they have to market, in the necessity of new methods of handling. Even that is not enough. The normal average individual will only have the biggest interest in anything when his own financial returns are tied up with that interest, and in the past we have suffered much because there was never discrimination between the man who made a good product and the man who made an inferior one. The fisheries will only be successful when the fishermen are shareholders of the enterprise and when their income depends as much on the successful marketing operation as on the catch. The average fisherman feels his job is done when he has salted it, dried it and passed it over to the merchants. That is why I deplore any niggardliness with regard to the investment of public monies on such things as co-operative education.

Mr. Fogwill It is not my intention to debate this excellent report but I was most interested in the fresh fish question. In reference to some figures quoted by Mr. Smallwood, I think he quoted 400,000 pounds of fish in 1943. Has he got those figures broken down?

Mr. Smallwood Not here....

[The committee of the whole and the Convention adopted the Fisheries Report and adjourned]

March 31, 1947

Report of the Public Health and Welfare Committee:¹ Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ashbourne Mr. Chairman, the Report of the Public Health and Welfare Committee has been distributed. It is not my intention to make a very long speech. We hope that members will find considerable food for thought in the report, and that in completing the final picture of Newfoundland the information herein will assist in our deliberations. It is not in one or two reports that we can expect to find the real answer we are seeking, but in studying all of the various reports as they are tabled and reviewing the future in the light of the present and of the past, come to some definite conclusions. I would like to make a few observations before I begin the piloting of this

report through the Convention.

As convener of the Committee, I would like to record my sincere thanks to each member of our Committee for the contribution he has made. It was hoped we would have been able to have had a second interview with the Commissioner of Public Health and Welfare, Sir John C. Puddest, but on account of his serious illness this has not been possible. I hope he will be able to appear before the whole Convention before its sittings are concluded. Any commissioner who has seen the whole life of the Commission of Government, on the inside as well as on the outside, should be able to make a distinct con-

¹Volume II:251.