

Bonavista, just like cheese. I know that is shipped out under many names, and I doubt if the word Merchantable is used. There is choice, prime and other grades, but I don't remember the word Merchantable being used, but a lot of it was Merchantable. Then again Madeira. Is it shipped out as Madeira? Under what names and grades is that fish shipped out? The mere fact that there is some technical classification of only 2% merchantable makes me believe that there is some other name. Now somebody knows we are going to get at the bottom of that and lift the lid off.

Mr. Crosbie Mr. Smallwood makes some very bad statements at times. Apparently he does not want to believe anyone. It does not sound logical or responsible for a man not to believe in anything. With regard to Merchantable fish, the grades have changed in the past few years, and I believe the figures are possibly correct. Speaking for our own firm we have not exported a merchantable fish for five years, or bought one for that matter, for that period. The fish in this country is not as good as it was ten or 15 years ago. Whether it is the fault of the curing or what I am not in a position to say.

Mr. Smallwood What names are they exported under?

Mr. Crosbie Merchantable and Madeira, you can go down to the Fishery Board and see.

Mr. Hollett What is the difference in price?

Mr. Crosbie I am not sure, but \$2 or \$3 a quintal anyway.

Mr. Bailey I wonder can anyone tell us what the names are that the fish is exported under? How many grades and the names on there?

Mr. Job I will have to refer back to Mr. Crosbie, I have been so long out of that I don't know.

Mr. Crosbie I will take a crack at it. Merchantable, Madeira, Thirds, tom cods, West India and bim and scale fish — these are the grades they are exported under today. Bim is a new one. If you get on a culling board today you are mesmerised, you can go down on my premises any time when you are not too busy with confederation. You have Madeira no. 1, 2 and 3, and so on with each grade. You want to be a genius today to know the salt codfish business on grades.

Mr. Vincent I move that this section be adopted.

Mr. Ashbourne Referring to this matter of cull if I might, as far as I know the cull, when the fish is bought from the fishermen, is Merchantable,

Madeira, West Indies and tom cods, not Thirds. Thirds is an export grade, which means that when the fish is culled at the exporting premises there are certain fish which are graded as Thirds. There are some people who think that the fishermen should have that extra grade too — Thirds....

Mr. Chairman I would like to draw your attention to the fact that I have permitted the debate to wander. There has been some information solicited, but we are not dealing with the salt codfish section just now. The motion is that this section now pass, as read.

[The motion carried. It was then moved that the report be adopted as a whole]

Mr. Vincent This report deals with what is in all probability the most important debate to be discussed in this chamber. I do not see the urgency to railroad it through, it concerns more than 60% of our people. On Tuesday, fishermen north, south, east and west listened with great interest to something that appeared to be in the nature of an accusation, a firm or firms receiving an overall commission on every quintal of saltfish shipped out of this country. Tonight they may have some misgivings when they hear of agents, commission merchants, brokers, trade representatives, and sundry others, all getting some cut from what they, who go down to the sea in ships, can extract but a very poor living. I am not quite content with the chairman's explanation that in his opinion this is justified. The whole economy of our country revolves around our fisheries, and I am surprised that so many delegates have not shown a greater interest in this debate.

I do not know what phase of our fisheries should get top priority, I would say that one is so dependent on the other. Mr. Crosbie specialises in fresh codfish products, in this he is joined by Mr. Job, whose firm also figures largely in the fisheries. But just for purposes of comparison, I would point out that in the last fishing season, 1946, the value of the salt cod export was more than three times the export value of fresh and frozen cod products. If, as Mr. Smallwood with his pessimistic outlook on this phase of the industry suggests, or Mr. Crosbie with his "catch herring" policy points out, if this means curtains for everything but the fresh products and herring, then it devolves upon us to be up and doing something about the reconversion of the salt cod; and reconversion to the fresh and refrigeration