

importance when speaking of markets. The industry has grown from an export value of \$236,000 in the year 1934-35 to \$2,071,000 in the year 1944-45, and to a much greater amount in the last year. We know that herring are available in vast quantities, and amounts already procured can be maintained and probably augmented if we find the markets. The greater bulk of the herring exported in this last year or two went to contracts placed by UNRRA, and although we hope this will be maintained there is no guarantee. It is obvious, in order to keep this growing industry at its present level, new markets must be found. I did not hear Mr. Gushue's speech on this subject at Rotary<sup>1</sup>, and also mislaid the paper containing his speech. I will say that he and his board have done a good job in respect to the herring industry.

Getting back to the cold storage industry, you will note that there is not a cold storage or quick-freezing plant on the west coast, north of Port-aux-Basques or Isle-aux-Morts. It would seem that where the herring are in abundance, as in the Bay of Islands, would be the most logical place to have such a plant, since bait could be obtained not only for our own fisheries, but exported for the same purpose. We do, during the winter months export quite a lot of herring to Canada, frozen by natural process. It is probable these matters have been gone into by the Fisheries Committee, or will be looked into at future meetings. I am not forgetting when speaking of herring to mention the importance of fish meal plants, and am happy to say we have one of the finest in the country owned by our mutual friend Mr. Chesley Crosbie, in Bay of Islands. I think that this phase of the herring industry can be developed on a far greater scale if given aid and encouragement.

When speaking of the herring industry, and I have mentioned Bay of Island particularly, I do not want to sectionalise the debate. I speak of it as it affects the country as a whole, not one particular part thereof, but, I do say, that in Bay of Islands we have been, and will probably continue to be, sadly neglected in our efforts to promote this great and coming industry. We have

always had and will probably continue to have a shortage of nets and gear. Also, due to the fact that shipping closes at an early date due to ice, much of the produce must be shipped by rail. Incidentally, all of these products so shipped must be hauled from the waterfront to the railroad station, and we have only an abused cowpath on which to do this most important work....

At the present time in Bay of Islands quite a large processing plant is being constructed by a Canadian firm which will in all probability include refrigeration. Does it not seem strange that outside interests have to come and do a job which should be done by our own government or local interests?....

**Mr. Butt** Mr. Chairman, when the Fisheries Committee presented the report which we now have before us it raised a question which is more important than the apparent subject matter of the report proper. I feel sure that as it was listened to by the majority of the members of the Convention, and since that time by the public generally, there arose in the minds of the majority something of the past history of Newfoundland....

If we go back into Newfoundland's history far enough we have, on the authority of McLintock<sup>2</sup> in particular, a clear picture of how in her struggle to establish herself, Newfoundland had to grow up in an atmosphere where the whole power of great nations tended to depress the struggling colony. Newfoundland, and the potential and actual wealth of her fisheries, were treated as just another source of producing wealth for the mother country as well as a training ground for the defence of Britain, which at that time was looked upon as the chief preoccupation of government. In our studies of the problem of governing Newfoundland we are almost invariably faced with the fact that the greatest problem of government is the dispersal of our people. People may vary in their interpretation of the reasons for our having settled so far apart from each other, but if my reading of Newfoundland history is correct the repressive measures taken against settlement in the island were the main cause of our having to hide away in places where we could not be found. In addition, and because

<sup>1</sup>R. Gushue, speech at St. John's Rotary Club, 12 September 1946, as reported in *The Evening Telegram*, 13 September 1946, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup>Alexander H. McLintock, *The Establishment of Constitutional Government in Newfoundland, 1783-1832. A Study of Retarded Colonization* (London, 1941).