

shipped from Newfoundland last year? If the fishermen are getting no grade for merchantable fish, and they are getting merchantable fish, there is something wrong.

Mr. Reddy It is very difficult for the fishermen to get merchantable fish now. I don't know why, but the bulk of it is Madeira.

Mr. Hollett Do I understand from Mr. Job that there are no records to show how much fish was merchantable?

Mr. Job No.

Mr. Hollett Why?

Mr. Job The exports don't show it. There is no record in the exports of the amount of merchantable fish. They simply have a record of the amount to certain markets.

Mr. Hollett But it must be graded. How else is it shipped?

Mr. Job No, it is not.

Mr. Crosbie Excuse me, but you are wrong, Mr. Job.

Mr. Job Can you tell me?

Mr. Crosbie Every fish has to be passed by a government inspector. It is shown in the Fishery Board return, the amount of merchantable fish, Madeira, etc., because you must have a record before it is shipped.

Mr. Job But do they keep the statistics?

Mr. Crosbie Well, they should certainly.

Mr. Hollett There are three copies made out, one for the packer, one for the shipper and one for the Fishery Board.

Mr. Job Well, we have not got it here and we can't get it from the Customs.

Mr. Ashbourne I think that information can be secured from the Fishery Board, and I believe I heard or read recently about the small percentage of merchantable fish that was exported from Newfoundland. We export some merchantable fish from Twillingate, not a very large amount, but the fishermen do sell some merchantable fish to us. The exact percentage I could not tell, but I firmly believe that that information can be secured from the Fisheries Board.

Mr. Hollett Will Mr. Job undertake to get that information from the Fisheries Board?

Mr. Job I think Mr. Ashbourne is chairman of the subcommittee on fish and perhaps he would try to get it for us.

Mr. Ashbourne I will try to get it.

Mr. Hollett Thank you, and will you try to find

out how much merchantable fish was brought in from Lamaline and elsewhere?

Mr. Miller I know a little about selling fish to St. John's, and we generally believe the cull to be rather strict in St. John's, but I have seen a fisheries receipt for a total of 26 quintals of fish, and there were 23 quintals of merchantable out of 26. These figures can be verified.

Mr. McCarthy It would be very interesting to find out if there is any merchantable fish exported, because there are a lot of people inquiring about that. I have seen quite a lot of fish on the west coast, but I have yet to see a merchantable fish. There is a difference of \$1 per quintal, I think.

Mr. Hickman Mr. Smallwood a few minutes ago said that Lamaline had never known a merchantable fish. I would like to know on what authority he said that.

Mr. Smallwood I believe you are putting words in my mouth.

Mr. Job I suppose we will have to try to get that information. Will that end it for the time being? We have 15 pages of this to do.

Mr. Newell Does this whole thing not point to a weakness in our whole method of curing codfish? I am no authority on this, but wherever you go you hear the same kind of comments, and usually where there is a great deal of smoke there is a little fire somewhere. As far as I understand the system of culling and exporting fish, going back a step from where we were yesterday, I presume whoever is selling codfish employs the local culler, who in turn is under oath to act fairly in the best of his ability to all parties concerned. Of course no man can be expected to do more than the best of his ability. I am not sure if the man's ability is ascertained before he is given a license or not.

Mr. Job It is very difficult to get expert cullers.

Mr. Newell Codfish is bought by the dealers, and culled by local cullers appointed by the local dealer. I would not say that the culler gave an advantage to the local dealer, but that clause that the man must cull to the best of his ability does, after all, admit of certain very grave weaknesses. On the other hand, when the same codfish is exported to the markets it is culled under the supervision of inspectors of the Fishery Board. When the exporting merchant is packing his fish for export he has the same cullers in his store, but