

Would Mr. Job tell us if that means that to take a hogshead of salt, say from St. John's on a government boat to some other place on the coast, costs as much freight as that hogshead of salt cost where it was purchased in the first place?

Mr. Job Most of the salt is freighted from the West Indies by the government boats, and the freight is about three times the cost of the salt in the West Indies. The freights are tremendously high.

Mr. Smallwood You mean that the salt is bought in the West Indies and freighted to Newfoundland, and the cost of the freight from West Indies to Newfoundland is about three times the price of the salt in West Indies in the first place?

Mr. Job Yes.

Mr. McCarthy I wonder if Mr. Job would tell us what the freight is on salt from the West Indies to Newfoundland?

Mr. Job I can't tell you.

Mr. Ashbourne At the time that we were writing this sub-committee report the freight on salt was \$12 a ton from the West Indies to Newfoundland, and the cost of the salt was about \$4.02 in West Indies, so that would bring it to approximately three times the price. Added to that are certain charges for loading and for insurance. Representations having been made to the Newfoundland Fisheries Board,¹ an arrangement has been made whereby there is a rebate paid of \$1 per hogshead to the importer, in the outports particularly. I don't know if that applies to St. John's as well, because the cargoes of salt to St. John's come in much larger vessels, and you can expect a lower rate of freight; I think such a large freight rate on the government boats was on account of their smaller carrying capacity. They go to the West Indies with fish and they bring back molasses, and sometimes rum, and also bring back salt for the outports....

Mr. McCarthy Does that mean \$4.02 landed cost?

Mr. Ashbourne No, that's the rate in the West Indies, and there's a rebate of \$1 per hogshead.

Mr. McCarthy That would be \$3 freight approximately?

Mr. Ashbourne Yes, but the understanding is that the salt must be sold in the outports at \$4.75 per hogshead, which is the same price as in St. John's when imported from the West Indies.

Mr. Smallwood On page 7 of the Appendix: "We appreciate the important work that the Newfoundland Fisheries Board is performing in its control over all branches of the fishing industry." I understand that the Fisheries Board has a definite policy to keep the exportation of fish in as few hands as possible. I heard or read somewhere that the idea was to keep the number of exporters limited to around 50.... Now if Mr. Job tells us that that is the policy of the Fisheries Board, would he tell us how the Board, or the fish trade, proposes to deal with small exporters, and how it proposes to deal with new exporters. How can a man become an exporter if he is not one already? In the old days we have had men, we have one on Water Street today who began as a fisherman in Bonavista Bay and started a small shop, and ended up one of the biggest exporters in this country. If there had been a fishery board at that time, could he have become one of the largest exporters in Newfoundland? Then I am wondering about the co-operative society. Can a co-operative society, as easily as anyone else, become an exporter?.... What do they look forward to, the day when they will succeed in having perhaps a dozen exporters in the country? Is that the ideal they are aiming at, a dozen, or 20, or just one?....

Mr. Job I don't know whether Mr. Ashbourne can answer that question; I can't because I am not a member of the Fishery Board, and I don't attend their meetings. I am sure they are not going to discourage any man who wants to go into the thing on a large scale. If the speaker will put his question into writing I think it might be passed on to the Fishery Board.

Mr. Ashbourne There is not much that can be added, except that I believe that at the time the licenses were given to codfish exporters it was stipulated that an exporter, to get a license, had to export up to a certain number of quintals of fish, a certain minimum for a year or two previous to the issuing of the license. Any person or co-operative who was in a position to export this quantity of fish — 3,000 quintals I believe it was — for a year or two before applying for a license was granted an exporter's license.

Mr. Hickman That might be all right, but following up Mr. Smallwood's point, if he decided to export fish, how would he acquire a license?

¹Created in 1936 by Commission of Government to regulate the production and export of fish.