

means a very costly investment....

In Bonavista North there are around 70 schooners and some 1,500 inshore fishermen. Very little of the expensive Labrador outfits can be of any use for fresh fish. Schooners will have to be refrigerated, plants must be built and I would remind the Commission of Government here that in all Bonavista North and Centre there is no freezing plant. There is a bait depot at Greenspond, so when the salt cod goes, something must be done at once to give those displaced fishermen a chance to earn a living. Their present fishing equipment for the greater part, I refer to the Labrador outfits, will be considered obsolete and scrapped.... I believe in our fisheries and I am prepared to wager that in the future we will stand or fall not by farming, not by forestry, not by mining, but by our fisheries, and that only....

I entirely agree with Mr. Crosbie that the figure of \$24 million is very conservative and I certainly do not visualise it falling below that for many years. Your Committee suggests a wider diversification of this important industry, with emphasis laid on the fresh and frozen fish markets; that there are tremendous possibilities in our herring fisheries no one doubts, and that it is fast becoming a major branch of the trade is certain. Yet can the herring fishery, centralised as it already is, and restricted to certain specific areas in the island, absorb a part of the many men, who when the salt cod markets go, will of necessity be seeking other sources of employment?

Hanging over every phase of our fisheries must ever be factors beyond our control, such as our utter dependence on the economy of foreign countries to purchase our products, and our absolute lack of internal markets. Coupled with that are the uncertainties of our fisheries; even this year the failure of the Labrador schooners to secure the elusive cod may seriously affect the getting of good fishermen to follow that calling.

With the subsidiary fisheries I shall deal but briefly. The once proud industry of our hardy sealers has dwindled to a shadow of its former self. Of the minor industries, salmon and lobster figure prominently, both seem to be firmly established in the continental market, and the future seems bright. The revival of the whaling industry and its impact upon the economy is something Newfoundlanders must have greeted with much satisfaction. The liberal wages paid by the operat-

ing firms is very commendable....

The Fisheries Board costs the fishermen of Newfoundland exactly \$225,000. I agree that department has justified its existence. But nothing is altogether perfect and there is still much room for improvement. There are discrepancies in our culling system, in our inspection personnel. This must be corrected; codfish, salmon, lobster, should be firmly rejected if it does not meet the requirements. Inspectors should be fair and fearless and ensure a good article for export which will automatically ensure our retention of good markets.

The idea of the 25-ton powered boat for late inshore fishing is sound and, unlike carrying out ice in small boats in July and August, is practicable. The best thing in this report is this centralisation idea, the objective for which we should constantly strive. This must come with the reconversion of our fisheries, and the opening up of our communications, so that when Mr. Crosbie starts his processing plant at Wesleyville or Hare Bay in my district, fast trucks will speed up from Musgrave Harbour and Lumsden with the fish fresh from the boat. A centralised curing and processing plant situated in Bonavista Bay could serve 50 miles of fishing coast if the plant could absorb all the catch.... Our fisheries are the vital life blood of our nation; we need more men of vision, men of a gambling spirit, men who will seek out and exploit every last chance to utilise to the last ounce our fishery products and by-products.

I do not want to be accused of self-serving localism but I cannot refrain from saying that if there are two districts where the opening up of communications is of vital importance to the future prosecution of the fisheries, they are the districts of Bonavista North and Centre. Every settlement from Hare Bay to Musgrave Harbour, a distance of 60 miles, is a fishing settlement, and with the advent of the mechanisation and modernising of the industry, and centralisation, roads must be built. Like Mr. Hollett, who yesterday fearlessly demonstrated that he was not a native of Burin, nor of Grand Falls, but of Newfoundland, I am unable to endorse the opinion that there is sufficient justification for the expenditure of \$1.5 million in a certain specified area on the pretense that it is vitally necessary to the industry there, while 150 men, women, and