

Mr. Starkes That \$4 — is that per trip or per month?

Mr. Crosbie That is for a trip.

Mr. Reddy Does the government compel you to have these men insured? Or is it voluntary?

Mr. Crosbie The government does not compel you, but under the act you are responsible for payment of \$1,000 if anything happens to the men. For years all of our men have been insured.

Mr. Reddy The bank fishermen only get \$180. I consider their lot just as hazardous as seal fishermen.

Mr. Job Much more.

Mr. Reddy Therefore I am alarmed at the small insurance of bank fishermen, compared to the sealers.

Mr. Ballam I suggest we leave this report on insurance until we come to that section.

Mr. HarringtonThe point strikes me that considering the fact that these ships cannot be

used for ordinary purposes, it might be possible to employ them in the fresh frozen food business, is that possible?

Mr. Job I do not think that a properly built sealing ship could be equipped to combine with insulation. Take the *Beothic* and *Ungava* — it was the serious competition and they could not compete, it cost so much more for insurance. We were paying insurance on an extra \$200,000 all the time and competition was so keen, we found we had to lie them up.

Mr. Harrington They were good cargo carriers.

Mr. Job Yes, carried more than 2,600 tons.

Mr. Smallwood Any talk of new steamers for the seal hunt?

Mr. Job Nothing definite. We are all waiting to see the results of the sealing survey.

[The committee rose and reported progress, and the Convention adjourned]

March 26, 1947

Report of the Fisheries Committee:¹ Committee of the Whole

[The committee passed the section on the seal fishery, and then passed on to the section concerning the whale fishery² and Appendix E³]

Mr. Ashbourne I was wondering if there is any fear of overfishing, or whether there is any sign of diminution of whales around the coast. I was also wondering whether there is any ambergris, which is used as a base for highly priced perfumes, and if it is exported, and I was wondering if we could get any idea of the value.

Mr. Crosbie As far as we can learn there is no sign of the diminution of the whales, and they have got a scientist there the last few years. To my knowledge there has not been any ambergris.

Mr. Smallwood Is there a tendency towards a shortage of whales?

Mr. Crosbie I would not be sure, but the quota has been filled this year.

Mr. Smallwood There is an international quota?

Mr. Crosbie There is an international agreement, which sets the number of whales that can be taken.

Mr. Smallwood Do you remember the number?

Mr. Crosbie In the Antarctic it is 16,000.

Mr. Harrington These figures on page 7 would seem to indicate that there is no shortage of whales. There is a steady increase.

Mr. Crosbie From 1940 to 1942 the Hawke's Harbour plant was closed.

Mr. Job Do you have two steamers there or only one?

Mr. Crosbie Only one for 1940.

Mr. Ballam Mr. Crosbie says this is a million dollar industry, and he anticipates in the future it will be reduced to \$600,000. Why do you anticipate such reduction if the demand is so great?

Mr. Crosbie Most everyone realises that during the next three or four years the price will come down. I would not expect to see the price maintained.

Mr. Ballam It could be maintained if you had a greater production?

Mr. Crosbie No.

Mr. Hickman Is it a fact that the Norwegians have already lowered their price this year?

Mr. Crosbie True, it has dropped from \$550 a

¹Volume II:181.

²Volume II:191.

³Volume II:231.