

kind of a compliment is it when you look over at the next page: "the fullest co-operation of the trade that made the notable achievements of the Fisheries Board possible." Well now, is that correct? What is going to happen when the trade takes away its genial support?

Mr. Job I don't think they will take it away. I dare say Mr. Hollett will remember that in 1920 or 1921 when the late Sir William Coaker endeavoured to tackle this question of the organisation of the fisheries, the trade was divided very seriously, and it got into a political atmosphere and the thing was an absolute failure. I believe if the trade had supported it, then the whole thing would have been brought into being then, but there was so much political spleen brought in that it killed it. We have been fortunate in getting the trade to support it now. I believe that if they don't we will not be able to carry it on.

[After some further discussion, the section was passed. The Secretary read the next section¹]

Mr. Job This is all on the co-operative movement — a very important one in the future of the country, and personally I think it is a very important matter. This section was written — as most the rest of it was — by Mr. Keough, who is a keen co-operative man, and he did reserve the right to criticise the figures given at the end of the section, having regard to the challenging by certain people of the figures of the co-operatives. The contention of the one witness we had before us, who is interested in canning, was that it would pay the country better if the lobsters, instead of being shipped alive, had all been canned. It seems very doubtful whether that's correct, but anyhow Mr. Keough reserves the right to criticise that although he agreed to put it in the report in favour of the opposition.

Mr. Keough What I have to say I have written out in the form of a statement, so that we will not get mixed up in the statistics.

With regard to that section of this report that deals with the co-operative movement at its points of contact with the fisheries — and in particular in respect of the co-operative shipping of live lobster — I think it only fair to the Committee to say that it did accept in good faith information which I supplied. In addition a further statement was supplied to the Committee, the intent of which was to show wherein the co-

operatives could have obtained greater returns if instead of marketing their lobster live they had canned it and marketed the same direct. I was quite willing that such statement should be included in this report in order that both sides of the story might be told. But when I signed the Fisheries Report I did so with the distinct understanding that I would take some issue with that statement of how the co-operatives might have done better when such statement would come before the Convention. I now do so....

[Mr. Keough argued at length that it was uncertain whether co-operatives had in fact lost money by shipping live lobster]

Mr. Hollett There seems to be a disagreement among the Fisheries Committee. I could not follow Mr. Keough's dissertation and I would like to have a copy of his speech. An attempt has been made to prove there is more benefit from canned than from live lobster. I think it is a matter between the co-operatives and the trade.

Mr. Smallwood I am not going into the point Mr. Keough touched on. He is an auditor among the credit societies where a great many lobsters have been handled in recent years, and if he is satisfied it is the most economical thing to ship them alive, I am going to accept his word for it. That is not what I wanted to say, but rather this: it is a wonderful thing that this Fisheries Committee, consisting of several of the country's best-known fish merchants and exporters, brings in a report, a big section of which deals with the co-operative movement.... The fact that this movement, young as it is, has been able to produce for this Convention men of the type of Mr. Keough, Mr. Newell and Mr. McCarthy, is the most important thing about this whole country today. I am not too optimistic about this country and I am completely honest in that. There are some encouraging things and some discouraging things about it. One of the encouraging things, basically and fundamentally, is the existence of this great co-operative movement which does not extend far enough and which I hope will extend throughout the country; that will make a big difference in the lives of our people. I congratulate the co-operatives on being represented in this Convention. Ten years ago we would have been laughed at for talking co-operatives; today it is not laughing matter. Ten years from now,

¹Volume II:202.