

picture glowing only for the sake of arguing against, say, responsible government.... Regardless of the form of government we get in 1948 this country is due for a recession in the fish trade, that is likely to last three or four years.

I have absolute faith in the eventual triumph of this country. She may go through hard times, but Newfoundlanders have in them what it takes. If only the country can get a decent chance, we will amount to something in the end.

Mr. Spencer We are all agreed that the fishery is likely to remain for many years the main industry of this country, and in the past we have invariably thought of the salt codfish industry. In this respect our thinking was wrong, but there is no need for me to enlarge on this as it has been dealt with very thoroughly.

My experience of the fishery has been that the fisherman who got most out of fishing, who made the most comfortable living, was without exception the man who was equipped to go after and catch different types of fish. If a man was equipped to go after halibut, he went after them in the early spring, or one who had enough herring nets would go after them when they were plentiful, and in recent years he could sell them to the government bait depot or the local herring packets. Unfortunately, the bait depots have not the refrigeration or storage capacity to handle all the herring that can be caught. Then when the time of the year came for salmon he went after them; the same is true of lobster and mackerel, and if he had a harpoon aboard of his boat, and was lucky, he might add a swordfish to his catch; and he only went after cod when none of the other fish were available. In this way if the price was low for any one type of fish, he very likely made up for it on the other types. For this reason I cannot quite agree with the table in Appendix B, which draws a comparison between the catches of the inshore and deep-sea fisherman.¹ I have no doubt it is accurate as far as codfish is concerned, but it does not give the true picture, as many of those who are classed as inshore fishermen catch other fish besides cod. This may not apply to all parts of our coast, as there may be sections where they catch only cod.

I would add my voice to that of Mr. Hillier and the Fishery Committee, when they advocate a scheme of social security for our deep-sea fisher-

men. I consider it is the distinct duty of any country to provide protection and security for the families of our men who go down to the sea in ships.

With regard to the fresh frozen cod industry, our people are becoming more fresh fish conscious and every effort should be made to find markets for our products.

I feel there is no need for me to more than mention the co-operative marketing and export of our fishery products. The results speak more eloquently than any words of mine.

Now to consider the value of the fisheries to the national income of this country for the years which lie immediately ahead. In my opinion the men who comprise the Fishery Committee have wide experience in matters pertaining to the fisheries, and the reasons they have given for expecting an annual income from the fisheries of approximately \$25 million are sound, and unless something drastic happens to our markets, can be expected to materialise. We hear much of the need for new industries, but to me our greatest need is to develop to the full the industry that we have.

Mr. Bailey I hardly know where to begin to enumerate the ills and shortcomings that have befallen the backbone of our economic structure, the codfishery.... I firmly believe that every sane Newfoundlander — whether layman or fisherman — should have a chance to study and closely follow this report. The government should put it out in pamphlet form and send a copy to every hamlet in Newfoundland. Its figures leave much room for thought. I was forcibly struck with the great differences in the export of our fish during the past and at present. We find, for example, in 1908-09 the export of salt cod was 1,732,387 quintals. Whilst I know that two of our markets — Italy and Greece — are in the doldrums today, yet we find that in 1945 the export of our saltfish was 1,058,933, a decrease of 673,454 quintals, or a loss of over \$10 million at 1945 prices. Was there a market for that fish, and we did have the fish to supply it, or have we lost the markets where we marketed that extra 700,000 quintals of fish? I think the time for stocktaking in our primary industry was long overdue. Another 40 years at the rate we are going will find us without any markets....

¹Volume II:217.