

thousands of quintals of codfish here in Lamaline, and we never get one merchantable fish. I don't know one man that ever got a merchantable codfish, so we would like to know if there is such a thing as a merchantable codfish. We salt and dry and wash our fish, and we make our fish. We made better fish last summer than for years past, but we never got one merchantable fish. Now the people are very anxious to know if there is such a thing as a merchantable codfish, and we thought you would be the right man to find out and let us know, either over the air or by letter.

We hear over the radio that you speak too loud, but the louder you speak the better we like it.

I do hope we will get a better cull on our fish next year than Madeira or West Indies. Of course if there is no such thing as a merchantable fish we would like to know it, but please don't mention my name, but I would like to know if there is such a thing as merchantable codfish, because I think it is right for the people to know.

Yours truly,
"X"

I would like Mr. Job, or someone else, to tell us are the words "merchantable fish" just words, or is there such a thing? Could someone throw some light on that perplexing question?....

Mr. Job I should think the best way for Mr. Smallwood to find that out would be to interview the Fisheries Board. We must presume their fish is not good enough to classify that way. It is probably greatly exaggerated; I imagine there is a certain quantity of merchantable fish everywhere, but the quantity is small nowadays because the same care is not taken with the cure; the main bulk of the fish shipped is good Madeira fish....

Mr. Smallwood I know there is no merchantable fish in Lamaline, but what they want to know is, is there such a thing as a merchantable fish?

Mr. Job We are not cullers here.

Mr. Hollett I object very strongly to the use of this Convention for answering anonymous letters. I can bring in half a dozen tomorrow. I object to anonymous letters, the contents of which I doubt very much. I can't conceive of any fisherman making fish and not getting any merchant-

able fish at all. It is a good many years since I was associated with a fishing settlement, but I know they did make considerable merchantable fish.

Mr. Hillier As to whether or not merchantable fish has been made at Lamaline, I say, "Yes, it has been made there"; but according to the information furnished by fishermen, they have not got that rating. One man took particular care in curing his fish, and he took his fish along and it was culled and as he said, it was "picture fish", but he got no better price than the other man who brought in an inferior quality. Therefore I can understand the man saying, "Is there any merchantable fish?" Whether it is the grading or not I cannot say; but according to the information furnished me by the fishermen of Lamaline, and they are all shore fishermen, they don't seem to be able to get no. 1 grade. Where the fault lies I cannot say, but these are the facts.

Mr. Job It seems rather a waste of time to spend time on that question when we have such a large report to get through.

Mr. Smallwood I don't think the people of Newfoundland would consider it one moment wasted, and I would ask Mr. Hillier if he believes this letter to be genuine.

Mr. Hillier That's a genuine letter from Lamaline, and I happen to know the man who wrote that letter. He is a fisherman of many years. He is not very active now.

Mr. Job The remedy seems to be some sort of an inspector to whom a man can appeal on a question of cullage. Anyone who knows anything about cullage can see that it's very difficult to say on the borderline whether a fish is first or second quality. I say that's a matter of representation to the Fishery Board.

Mr. Starkes I think that matter should be dealt with in this Convention, because the people will know what we are doing on the fisheries. I disagree with Mr. Job and agree with the letter from Lamaline to Mr. Smallwood. The rule is that the fish should be culled Merchantable, Madeira, and Thirds. The last two are all the one price to the fishermen, and therefore they are not encouraged. They can make fish that's classified as Thirds and get the same price as they would for Madeira. My experience is that it is almost impossible to get a no. 1 fish that will pass inspection.

Mr. Hollett Has the Fishery Committee information as to the amount of merchantable fish