

exported very little frozen or fresh fish. It was only in 1937-38 that some of our people had sufficient courage to go ahead. In 1940-45 it took great strides. Due to the necessity of more food because of war conditions a great many people ate fish who never ate fish before, and who will continue to eat fish for years to come. The war gave our exporters an opportunity to get more or less established and today they are still enlarging and are still very optimistic over the future of our fresh fish industry.

Within a very few weeks you will have here in St. John's, operating from Job Brothers, two new up-to-date trawlers which will permit this firm to operate all year round. This will give employment to many Newfoundlanders and will help change entirely the outlook of our fisheries.

It is true that our salt codfish for 1934-35 was only worth \$5 million and in 1945 it was some \$17 millions — quite a gap. It is also true we can expect reduced prices in our salt codfish over the course of the next few years, but I do not expect to see our salt codfish drop in price as low as it did in 1934-35. If you say, "Why?", my answer is this: during recent years there has been a greater spirit of co-operation all over this country and our marketing system for salt codfish has improved tremendously. There will be no throat-cutting, no loss because of shipping on consignment; more co-operation in every direction, which means a steadier, firmer market and better returns. Like every other industry, the salt codfishery has certain branches and phases that are uneconomic, and one of these branches is the Labrador fishery. This fishery costs a lot to fit out and continues only for three to four months; further, during these three or four months, only six weeks of fishing may be done. We had men come home from Labrador last year and this year with no voyages, men who have to go through hardship because they have caught no fish. For these men I have deepest sympathy and greatest admiration; it is not their fault, the country's fault, but nature's. I feel it is our duty, knowing that these fisheries are uneconomical, to wake up, get together, try and find the cure for these uneconomical fisheries. I would suggest centralisation, intense fishing of certain areas, more versatile boats, better equipment. You may say, "Where is this money coming from?" I say, if necessary the state should put it up. They have

guaranteed bonds to our paper companies to the extent of \$15 to \$20 million. Why cannot the same thing be done for our fisheries? I am sure that if our men go to the Labrador, properly equipped with the right vessels, they can come back and later prosecute other fisheries, even the seal fishery, which are now on the verge of being developed.

Then we have in this country our herring fishery. I have been in touch with this fishery from an angle entirely different from the pattern of the old days, from the angle of mass production, the production of protein meals that are badly needed all over the world, and will be needed for many years to come. Fishmeal is only in its infancy. It is only in the last 15 or 20 years, that the value of these fish meals have been realised for the purpose of feeding cattle, poultry and many other purposes. It is true, as some of you have said, since 1940 I have been in this business, had hardship and it is true I have made no money. But I would like to assure you my faith in this industry is greater than ever, and I am sure some day I will be rewarded or at least repaid for the trouble I have taken. We have today, which we never had before, the filleting of herring, the canning of herring by a large Canadian company, that has invested close to half a million dollars in Newfoundland for the handling of herring, a firm that has been for years in the herring fishery of Canada, who know their markets and have faith in herring as a product. There are many people in this country who would doubt that these industries can be developed. To them I say, have faith, encourage the people who are trying to run them, do not knock — just encourage.

We have a whale fishery which has gradually been built up because of newer methods and more things being found to save waste in the plants, and to decrease the cost of production which will under normal times permit this industry to meet the prices which may be prevailing.

The seal fishery will again come into its own. We have the opportunity of developing this industry and making it much more valuable than in the past. Today the seal fishery has changed somewhat, we have smaller boats going to the ice, with smaller crews and it appears to me that these boats and smaller crews may be the answer to a larger and most beneficent fishery in the future.