

before it passed to the consumer; a markup on the original cost of say 25%, and with the cost of handling, etc., added on, the percentage of selling price could not be decided with any degree of accuracy. But the markup on the cost could be arrived at with a fair degree of accuracy and would work out at 25% or over.

**Mr. Ashbourne** There is another point too that should not be overlooked, that is the stimulus that's given to the fisherman as he gets up in the morning and goes out realising that for his day's catch of codfish, before the evening sun sets, he will have the money in his pocket. That's a very important thing, and I am rather of the opinion that the great production of fresh and frozen fish that's been made in Newfoundland the past few years has been practically the result of the fact that cash has been paid for fresh fish.

**Mr. Penney** Many delegates are going out for a rest and it almost looks as if we are getting tired of this informative debate and that it ought to be soon ended in order to move on to another section. Before we do, I would like to say that to me the Fishery Board as constituted today is one of the bright sides in the marketing and control of the fishery products of Newfoundland. The personnel are doing a fine job, and one of the persons who had perhaps a great deal to do initially with that great undertaking is Mr. Brown. I am sorry he is unable to see the job through, at least in the House. The fishermen over across our way are very pleased and satisfied that things are going so well. I congratulate the members of the Fishery Committee who so far are giving us a fine report and doing a good job.

**Mr. Keough** Before the Convention passes on to another section I have some information which I think the Convention should have. It has to do with the export of fish. I just checked with the Newfoundland Fisheries Board, and the information I have is as follows:

This guaranteed system was discontinued in 1941. The price has gone up and there is no further guarantee in that respect. In 1943 the Combined Food Board allocated all the world's supplies of salt codfish and under that allocation system certain prices were agreed on, and when these export schedules were established the exporters and fishermen in this country met and agreed on prices. These were minimum prices, and they could

pay more if they so desired. In 1944 the same procedure was followed. The price represented some increase on the 1943 price. In 1945 the exporters and fishermen did not come to an agreement. Apparently they felt that competition would take care of providing a good price. Apparently it did, and the same story was true in 1946. No agreed to, or set price was determined by a meeting of exporters and fishermen, but the price ran higher than in 1945. Incidentally for 1946 the fishermen may have further saltfish cuts.

That seems to be the story.

**Mr. Smallwood** In 1938-39 the government guaranteed the merchants a certain export price on small Madeira and Brazil, and on Labrador fish. It is a remarkable fact that for that very year the total value of codfish exported from Newfoundland was only \$4,190,000, which was less than the year before that, when the catch was bigger. That's an average of only roughly \$4 per quintal.... Now in the following year, that would be 1940, they guaranteed all did they?

**Mr. Keough** Correct.

**Mr. Smallwood** So the exporters are naturally paying a bit firmer price to the fishermen, but in that year the catch was 1,208,000 quintals, and the value was up to \$6.5 million. I can't make that up in my mind just now, but it's a bit more; but 1940 was surely the first year of the great world up-swing of prices. The war broke out in 1939, but we did at least sell the fish in spite of the exchange trouble. What was the position in 1941?

**Mr. Keough** Apparently the guarantee system was in existence up to a certain time in 1941, at which time it was discontinued.

**Mr. Smallwood** 750,000 quintals. Now in 1942 the price jumped to \$9.25 million, and the next year \$12.5 million, and the next year \$13.25 million and 1945 \$16.75 million, that is of course when the Combined Food Board was controlling all the prices was it not?

**Mr. Keough** Yes.

**Mr. Smallwood** The total export value was 1,097,700 quintals — over \$17.25 million. That year, 1946, did the Combined Food Board have anything to do with it?

**Mr. Crosbie** Yes.

**Mr. Smallwood** When did the Combined Food Board's control over Newfoundland come to an