

the future of this fresh fish industry. In reading his report and the report of the Fishery Committee the things that stand out seem to be that there will be necessary plant extension and there will have to be subsidising of the industry to the extent that the fishermen will be paid more money. By that I gather that we will have to keep in line with the other countries such as Canada and Iceland. But the whole point of this debate is the US market. If we don't have a United States market we are not going to have a fresh fish industry. Now that being granted, and I hope I am not going to be accused by Mr. Butt of being a fatalist, we have got this to face with the United States of America. They have a very large fishing population, and are very interested in the same industry that we ourselves are trying to increase in production. We all remember what happened here in 1938. That big General Seafoods Corporation¹ came in here and concluded an agreement with the government that would have been of immense benefit to the people of this country, and I don't know whether any local industrialist in the fishing industry had anything to do with it or not, but when the deal was practically through the American House of Congress, the American Senate, the fishing industries of New England were organised to such an extent that a prohibitive tariff was raised against that deal and that big industry was dropped and the General Sea Foods people went out of the picture. What power has that same New England bloc today? We know they are vitally interested, and they are watching this new Louisbourg proposition in Canada, and even the debates in this house. We saw yesterday one of the representatives of the US government present here and everything that goes on is going to be of interest. Now the point is, is the western bloc referred to by Mr. Russell, namely the western states, of sufficient power to overcome the lobbying effect of the New England fish bloc? If not, then we might as well forget our fresh fish industry. If only a 1% increase on the present tariff went on the fresh frozen fillets going in it would not pay the industry to operate. How are we going to block that? I would certainly try but the bases are here, that's an accomplished fact. We can't tomorrow or the next day say, "Give us these concessions or we will turn you out." We

might as well forget that. The only thing we can do is trust to the humanitarian principles of the people we are going to sell our fish to, and that's why I am a bit sorry that all this debate had to happen in public. The Government of the United States might know about it, and the people of the United States may know what we are going to do, but if the American interests know that we are going into this industry in a big way they may take the steps necessary to see that we are squashed....

Mr. Crosbie I have been listening to what I consider to be an awful lot of pessimism. We have the finest fishing ledge known in the world. One American fish man told me the time would come when the US would have to come to Newfoundland waters to get her fish. Before the war, in the midwestern states very little fish was consumed. The methods of freezing and keeping frozen fish have changed entirely in the last ten years. The cost of a freezing unit is very small today compared to ten years ago. One town in the midwestern states did not consume one pound of fish per year. They put in a Birdseye freezer there, and they increased their consumption of fish in a few months from none to 15 lb. per person. We have no reason to be pessimistic. Why should we not ask for tariff concessions? We can ask, and if we don't get them, well, we can't be blamed. We can fight anyway. It is true there is a tariff on fresh fish in the United States, but that does not say that it can't be changed. I don't expect this government to go back and ask for a change in the base agreement. They can't — they signed it. The American market is not the only market for fresh fish. The methods of processing fish are changed entirely. You can take and consume huge quantities in this country year in and year out. Within the last couple of months I have had inquiries for a fairly large tonnage of frozen fish from Brazil, which now takes hardly any saltfish at all. We can't send it down because we have not the cold-storage ships and facilities, and they have not the facilities to handle it either, but I believe that will change in a year or two and we may have a market in Brazil or other countries. I say let's find out what procedure we have got to use. We have heard a lot about procedure lately. "Procedure" is a lovely word. You are told you can't do

¹The General Sea Foods Corporation wanted to establish a multi-purpose fish plant that would freeze fresh fish, use offal to make fertilizer, and provide bait for fishermen.