

that all over Newfoundland there is a considerable amount of smoked fish used for local consumption. I know the export figures are not very large. There are quite a number of smokehouses situated all over this country. These smokehouses turn out kippers, fillets, salmon, caplin and various other qualities of fish, being consumed by the local market largely.

Mr. Smallwood Are they of sufficiently good quality to be exported?

Mr. Vardy Yes, I have exported them myself as much as 25 years ago. There is a market for them.... I feel the Committee has done a good job and we want to get on with it, but I also feel very strongly about this matter of putting the fisherman off with such a small allocation, some as low as \$100 and \$500 each — the top men get \$700 each. Then they turn around and give men who want to start farming — very often men who know nothing about it — \$6,000 to \$7,000. I will say, as I said before, that time will prove that the \$6,000 will be more like \$10,000. If they had given those poor fishermen one of these little boats, ... these fishermen, after they were discharged, if given that \$1,000, plus the bounty, could have built their boats and owned them. It would have been an asset to the country. I know what these men from Bonavista and Trinity are up against, they have to go offshore to get their fish. I am firmly convinced that if the government had spent half that money to rehabilitate the fishermen and created a job somewhere else for the others, the money would have been spent in a better way. I would like to see more cold storages and more bait depots all over the country. The fishing industry is still the backbone of this country. I have been around South America, Jamaica and Cuba; there are very few cold storages there, they are like ourselves. The fresh fish industry is only in its infancy. We have not enough sharp-freezing facilities to take care of all the fresh fish. I was a firm believer in the Fisheries Board, but like all other departments of government it has gotten out of control; it is costing more than it should for the service rendered.

Mr. Vincent For the first hour I thought the Fisheries Board was the white-haired boy to the fishing industry but some of our associates do not seem to think so. I think that Mr. Gushue has done a good job. There are a few things to which I

would call your attention. Appendix B, page 7, last paragraph: "The matter of inspection is most essential to insure that high standard of quality." Did your Committee investigate the culling of the different grades of saltfish? Is there a specific yardstick of grading used in Trinity Bay and another in Bonavista Bay? Or do they all conform to one hard and fast rule? That is important. I have an interest in the Labrador salt codfishery. In 1946 a schooner in which I had a large interest discharged her cargo at a certain firm at St. John's. I left this Convention chamber one evening and went down to the schooner. It was raining hard. One of my friends across the way took me down in his car and he remarked it would be a poor day for handling, inspecting or culling fish. Arriving at the pier, what do I find? 15 or 20 men on the wharf opening barrels and packing fish. When I went on board I said to the captain, "It is not a good day for handling fish, is it?" He said, "Do not say anything, this is coming out No.1 Labrador — top grade." That is a very essential article of food and I am not going to stand for the fishermen being blamed for some of the curing. I was told that one of the inspectors of the Fisheries Board was on the wharf that day. That does not tend to create a good market for our staple product.

Further to Appendix B, page 11. Here I would make the accusation that a too trenchant pen, mayhap, makes the worthy scribe responsible for the generalities. I am conversant with the inshore fishery, and I cannot conceive how a fisherman with his crew of four or five men can carry out to a trap berth half a load of ice, haul his codtrap, and bring in, say, ten or 12 quintals of codfish.

On page 9 of Appendix B, I find something rather amusing. I refer to the elderly men prosecuting the inshore fishery — "Quite a number of inshore fishermen are elderly people." This certainly does not apply to districts of the North. In Bonavista Bay the prime young men are the fishermen, who consider their calling an honoured one, and are making a success of it.

Mr. Job Your reference to ice — I would like to make one remark about that. We had a discussion, and I must say we were all strongly in favour of that, because I have often seen fish coming into St. John's, fishermen waiting before they can get a chance of landing their fish, and that fish in hot weather soon deteriorates. There is no suggestion