

are all sorts of fish. Personally, I am an optimist more than a pessimist.

Mr. Bailey After listening to Mr. Smallwood I was wondering just how countries like Portugal, Spain and France can compete with us over here. I can see how it can be done. We have no doubt, as Mr. Crosbie says, a competitor in Norway as far as codfish is concerned. Iceland has never been a competitor. I cannot see how even Spain and Portugal are going to feed the people, let alone feed their own.... In 1909, 1907, 1908 and 1911 we could buy more for a dollar than we do today. We should be concerned with what we will be able to buy with what we produce. Take the fisherman today, he is in one of the worst places he has ever been in in the history of the shore fishery. The men of my district, on the shore fishery, their average earnings are \$325; out of that they had to come home and feed their families — flour \$18 a barrel. How much better off they were if they caught 50 quintals in 1929, than the men who catch 50 quintals today. He was

five times better off then. If the price of producing fish comes down, then let the prices come down. If it was not for the woods and land, you would have more men on the dole than in 1930. That is our shore fishermen.

Mr. Hollett I feel the Committee has made a fairly conservative estimate of what things to come are going to amount to as far as fish is concerned.... I admire Mr. Crosbie's optimism. I feel quite sure that it will not go back more than half.... I cannot agree with Mr. Smallwood that the Committee overestimated on any false basis whatsoever.... Looking at the figures, I am sure the Committee which brought in this excellent report has not falsely estimated. Nobody can make an exact estimate. It must be tantamount to a guess, although I am sure it is not a guess. I entirely agree with the conclusions the Committee has come to.

[The section passed. The committee rose, reported progress, and the Convention adjourned]

March 27, 1947

Report of the Fisheries Committee:¹ Committee of the Whole

Mr. Job We shall begin on page 40² — 'Consideration of Other Pertinent Factors.' I suggest that section be now read by the Secretary....

[The Secretary read the section of the report]

Mr. Hickman On page 44 in connection with government expenditure on fisheries research, it shows for 1945-46 there was \$12,000 less a refund from the Canadian treasury of \$4,100, but in 1946-47 there is no refund of a similar nature. I was wondering if the convenor could tell us what the refund constituted?

Mr. Keough The figures for 1946-47 run only to the end of January. The government year goes to the end of March, and if there was a refund coming it would be at the end of March.

Mr. Hickman But there was no estimated refund?

Mr. Keough No.

Mr. Hickman What was the refund for?

Mr. Keough The Canadian government did not use the whole \$12,000 for 1945-46, but returned some to the Newfoundland government. In 1946-

47 they expected to use the whole sum.

Mr. Smallwood I would like to call attention to the last paragraph on page 55: "Without seeking to detract in any way from the Board's accomplishments the Committee would suggest that henceforth the Board should seek to exercise more supervision at the point of production to ensure better quality products." I think, Mr. Chairman, that at this point I would be justified in reading that letter from Lamaline, because it deals with the question of quality and standards and grades of fish, and it reads as follows ...

Mr. Chairman The letter is admitted.

Mr. Smallwood

Dear Sir:

On hearing your broadcast over VONF, which we admire very much and listen to at every opportunity, I was asked by the people of Lamaline to write to you and ask you to ask the question at the Convention if anyone knows how much merchantable codfish is exported from Newfoundland. We sell

¹Volume II:181.

²Volume II:192.