

Mr. HAZEN: How far is Cheticamp from Port Hood?

Mr. A. W. CHISHOLM: About forty miles.

Mr. HAZEN: It is 100 miles from the factory to Port Hood. To go to Cheticamp would involve an additional forty miles, making the trip a long and expensive one.

Mr. A. W. CHISHOLM: I realize that, but the Government have established the plant at Canso for the purpose of carrying on the industry, and if they hope to make it successful they must make sacrifices. I think it is a small sacrifice to send that boat along the coast twice a week and I surely believe that if the Government had the interests of fishermen at heart they would not hesitate one moment to come to their aid to this extent. The Government spends immense sums of money aiding other industries which are not half as important as the fishing industry, but when I suggest that the boat should go 40 miles further north I am told this is expensive. Poor encouragement indeed for our fishermen.

Mr. HAZEN: I am told that if the boat were sent to Cheticamp, by the time it got back to the works the dogfish would not be fit to be manufactured into fertilizer.

Mr. A. W. CHISHOLM: I think I know as much about dogfish as the officials from whom my hon. friend gets his information. Dogfish can lie on the shore for two or three days without getting in very bad state. If the minister would establish some system under which the fishermen would be assured of a market for their fish, I am confident that they would take the trouble of covering the fish on the wharves so that the rays of the sun would not get at them. Certainly, if the boat makes only two trips a season, practically no results can be accomplished, but could not the Government furnish cold sheds for keeping these fish at each port?

Mr. HAZEN: In order to carry out my hon. friend's idea, we should have to have three boats, as we should have to go in three different directions from the factory. However, I will have the matter looked into. If my hon. friend will write to us giving us his ideas—because he is familiar with the whole locality—we might be aided in arriving at a decision.

Mr. A. W. CHISHOLM: I shall be glad to do that. But I have brought this matter to the attention of the minister on pre-

[Mr. A. W. Chisholm.]

vious occasions; I should not like it to go out to my constituency that this is the first time I have made these representations.

Mr. HAZEN: The hon. gentleman has already brought the matter up in the House; there is no doubt about that.

Mr. A. W. CHISHOLM: It is true that the boat would have to go in three different directions. But under ordinary conditions, the boat, leaving Canso in the morning, should be able to go down to Cheticamp and get back the next day. At least they can make one trip a week to all the places and call at all the ports where dogfish could be fished.

Mr. HAZEN: I am prepared to say now that I will do that this year, if we can get any guarantee that the fish will be there for us. We do not want to send the boat over that long route, at the expense which is necessarily involved, to get only a few tons of fish. If we had a guarantee that we should get at least twenty tons of fish each trip, I should not hesitate to do at once what my hon. friend asks.

Mr. A. W. CHISHOLM: All I expect of the officials is that they make the fishermen acquainted with the fact that the boat is going there and that the Government is anxious to buy the fish and pay a proper price for them. If they do that, I will do what I can to see that the fishermen are made acquainted with the way in which they can sell their fish. If the minister takes this step, I will admit that he has done all that one can reasonably expect in this regard without a reduction plant on our shore.

Mr. KYTE: The district of L'Ardoise, one of the largest fishing communities in eastern Nova Scotia, is only twelve miles from Canso. But I never heard of officials of the department or any persons connected with the reduction plant at Canso going to L'Ardoise and giving information as to what the Government are prepared to do in the matter of handling these fish. The difficulty that the minister suggested with regard to reaching the district of Cheticamp, which is forty miles from Canso, would not apply to the district in Richmond county that I have mentioned.

Mr. HAZEN: The Superintendent of Fisheries informs me that before the factory opened last fall, Mr. Lhonnès went to that district, saw the people there, told them that the Government were willing to buy whatever fish they could get, and urged on them the desirability of catching the fish.