

Most of the fish caught is cured by the fishermen themselves. By and large the Newfoundland salt cod fishery is conducted in the same way that it was generations ago—and here I would like to say how necessary it is that steps be taken to modernize the industry if it is to survive and adequately support those engaged in it. The record of the industry is not good, despite the hard work, the effort, and the back-breaking labour pursued under conditions which are often not only extremely uncomfortable but very dangerous. The fisherman engaged in this industry usually has nothing to show for a lifetime of effort but a worn-out and tired spirit.

Recently there has been a growing acceptance of the fact that ways of improving the industry are already within our grasp. Two sound and practical suggestions have been made which, if pursued, will unquestionably vastly improve the industry within a few years. One calls for an alteration in the methods of inshore fishery; the other would revolutionize the method of cure. At the present time, as I have stated, small boats are used for the inshore fishery. This means that fishing can only be carried on in good weather. Our summers are brief, and smooth water is somewhat rare in early spring and late fall. Thus the amount of time the fisherman has in which to do his work is definitely limited. Again, small boats are restricting the quantity caught. Larger boats will supply the answer. Boats big enough and stout enough to withstand stormy seas, and with sufficient power to bring them in safely against heavy winds, would be able to go farther off shore, to spend days, if necessary, away from the home port, and to return when loaded. These boats would permit the fishermen to begin operations very early in the year and continue up until the year's end. Bigger boats and a longer season would greatly increase the catch per man per year, and thus bring greater prosperity to the people and the province. Already some experiments have been made, and the results have been gratifying.

The curing of salt codfish has been a vexatious problem. The old method must be discarded. At the present time fishermen cure their own fish, with the result that a uniform product is impossible. Further, the fisherman must spend much time curing his fish when he ought to be catching more. The answer to this is obvious. Central curing stations must be established to which fishermen could bring their fish as soon as it is caught. The plant will look after the matter of curing while the fishermen continue to catch. The matter of artificial drying, particularly in the early stages of curing, must receive attention also, and must be arranged

in conjunction with these central curing stations. The fresh fish industry has proven the value of buying fish fresh from the fishermen. People who do not have to cure their fish have more time at the fishery and generally appear to be more prosperous than those who salt and cure their fish.

Despite the fact that the codfish industry has been carried on continuously for four hundred and fifty years, too little is known regarding the fishing grounds off our coast, the location of banks, and so forth. It seems to me that the time has arrived when a thorough investigation along scientific lines should be undertaken to make certain of the existence, location and dimensions of the many sections of the ocean within fifty to one hundred and fifty miles of our northeast coast, and that some scheme should be evolved under which such areas can be exploited to the advantage of the men whose severely circumscribed operations today make it difficult to gather a harvest that will afford them the type of livelihood to which they are entitled.

Before I leave the fisheries I would make brief reference to the seal fishing, which early each spring provides an industry that for adventure, romance and colour, is unequalled in the annals of commerce. The big game hunter meets nothing in the realm of sport to excel the danger and the excitement of killing seals on the heaving icefloes of Newfoundland waters.

The mills at Corner Brook and Grand Falls, the former the largest in the world, employ thousands of people in the manufacture of newsprint and sulphite, and other thousands in cutting the wood which is necessary to feed the mills. The value of this industry runs into many millions of dollars and is a vital factor in the island's economy.

Mining is centered largely at Bell Island and Buchans. The iron ore from the former remains in good demand and is smelted in the mills of North Sydney.

Honourable senators, it was with great pleasure that I noticed the reference in the Speech from the Throne to the Trans-Canada highway. For many years Newfoundlanders have keenly desired to have a trans-insular road extending from St. John's to Port aux Basques. Now it appears as if their dream of decades is about to be realized. This road will not only open up the interior of the province, but will be a great step forward in building up a tourist business in Newfoundland. If confederation accomplished nothing else for our island, the building of the trans-insular road would make it worth while, for the Trans-Canada highway will cross the island of Newfoundland. It will extend from St. John's to Victoria, or—if the honour-