

salmon, say in the middle of January, to Ottawa, I would have to put it on board a heated car which is ruinous to frozen fish. The car has to be heated because the express man must live in it and he must have a certain temperature, but the result is that within twenty-four hours the oil which is in the salmon, which is a very rich fish, there being no such salmon in the world as the Restigouche or Miramichi and Gaspe salmon—

Mr. HAZEN: St. John harbour salmon.

Mr. LOGGIE: I forgot about the St. John harbour salmon. By the time the salmon arrive at Montreal the oil has gone out of the fish, and you see a white scum on the skin. That fish must be consumed almost immediately, as in that condition it is not up to the standard. Now if that difficulty could be got over, if the minister would be willing to take up the matter with the Railway Department, and insist that the fish be put in a car with a partition so that one end could be kept cool while the express man could have his quarters in the other compartment, the fish would arrive in Montreal in perfect condition. The cost of such an arrangement would not be very large. I realize perfectly that the matter is surrounded with difficulty, because of the uncertainty as to the quantity of fish that would be put on the cars and expressed. But I believe that the proper way in which to carry fresh fish in small quantities is by express. You must keep the temperature of that portion of the car in which the fish is placed reasonably cool. I do not think it would be a very difficult proposition to have some arrangement with the Government railways and with the other railways for carrying the fish to Montreal under such conditions. So far as the Government railways are concerned at any rate, I think the proposition might be favourably considered. My hon. friend from Halifax said that we could not greatly increase the domestic consumption of fish. I do not care how much we increase the domestic consumption; that depends upon how fast the population grows. What I want to do is to give the people whom we have in this country our Atlantic fish. I think it is a reasonable proposition that we ought to consume our own fish, and not have them caught by American fishermen and shipped from Portland and Boston to Montreal and Toronto. In order to accomplish that, we must give the producers at the Atlantic end

the best transportation facilities possible. I regret I was not present when the hon. member for Guysborough advocated the subsidising of a line of steamers between Canso, I think, and Boston. That, to my mind, is a very desirable proposition, but it would not necessarily fill the bill, because it would serve only one section of the country, whereas the express companies touch nearly every point in the Maritime Provinces.

If the Government would carry out the policy that they have already laid down of extending the Intercolonial Railway by means of branch lines to these producing centres they would serve the fishing industry in a marvellous way, and do a great deal to encourage the marketing of fish. Then the hon. member for Digby could hardly say what he has said in his resolution. The point that the hon. gentleman makes in his resolution is that the fish should be placed in prime condition, and at moderate prices, on the interior markets of the country. This, I am sure, is a laudable idea and one that we can promote by providing for prompt transportation. For fresh fish express transportation is the only kind that is feasible for reasonably long distances, such as that between Montreal and the Atlantic seaboard.

With reference to prices, I am not sure that the hon. gentleman is right in what he says about that subject. I am inclined to believe that fish is to-day sold at moderate prices in the consuming centres of the Dominion. I have never known of any unreasonable price being asked for fish. The hon. gentleman must not forget, when discussing the difference between the cost of production and the cost to the consumer, that this commodity is something like vegetables. You will recall, I am sure, the discussion there has been regarding the difference between what the farmers get for their vegetables and what the consumer pays for them on the market, but if any hon. gentleman will go into the business of distributing vegetables, or into the retail fish business, in any of our large cities, he will find how great an expense there is in conducting a business of that character. Therefore, I am not sure that the hon. gentleman is right in that part of his resolution. In my judgment, fish are sold at moderate prices all over the Dominion. He says that the prices seem unreasonably high, and that this condition militates against the end in view, which is to encourage the greater consumption of fish