

the evidence of the Winnipeg fishermen themselves. I have got no stronger endorsements most places from what results from a fish culture than in that very district.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Have you a copy of the evidence on the resolutions?—A. I have got a copy of these on file. I am speaking entirely from memory and subject to very minor corrections. I know that I am stating in substance the facts.

Mr. BANCROFT: Mr. Chairman, if I am allowed, I might state right here that as far as my own experience goes I have never heard any objections to the artificial hatcheries in lake Winnipeg—I think there are three of them there—and until I came here I never heard anything against the idea of artificial hatcheries.

WITNESS: On the contrary, you will get testimony running the other way very very strongly.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. Salmon?—A. Those are dealing with whitefish mainly.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, do you not think that it would be possible in some way to regulate the system? As I pointed out in the House the other night, the system is that the company that buys the fish at Winnipegosis is the same company that buys them in Chicago. It seems that there is something wrong there. Every fishing facility in Winnipegosis is controlled by those two companies, the Armstrong and the Booth Fisheries. That is, they own the facilities, and they lease them or sell them to the fishermen. When the fish are produced they dispose of them in the Booth Fisheries or the Armstrong Fish Company. Those are the only existing agencies they sell fish to or do business with. In Chicago or any other American market the very same thing prevails.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, Mr. Ward, suppose the Department passed a regulation to prevent the American buyers or the American capital from buying fish, what would happen then?

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I frankly admit that I am not suggesting—

The CHAIRMAN: I am just trying to get some idea.

Mr. WARD: The fisherman does not seem to be—

The CHAIRMAN: Give us some reason for curing it.

Mr. WARD: I was on Lake Winnipegosis last winter myself, and I saw fish piled up there in windrows almost, myself, and boxed up, they were worth one cent and a half a pound.

Mr. MORRISSY: Can you suggest a remedy?

Mr. WARD: Jackfish was selling in Winnipeg for seven and a half cents a pound.

WITNESS: But would you follow the difference?

Mr. WARD: I am merely suggesting this for the benefit of the Department. I am just telling you that jackfish at the very same time that the men were getting a cent and a half boxed up at Winnipegosis were selling for twelve cents in Winnipeg, and whitefish were selling at eighteen and twenty cents in Winnipeg when they were getting five and five and a half. There is a discrepancy there.

WITNESS: There is possibly too great a spread in the price of fish, but the member knows that these are conditions over which we have no control. There is no absence of competition.

Mr. WARD: That is just all I want to know, if it cannot be remedied by the Department, that is what I want to be able to tell my people.

WITNESS: If a retail dealer is handling fish from a certain standpoint and handling a small quantity, he has to sell it at a certain price. In any event you are coming into the question of property and civil rights, and I am afraid that is something we cannot touch.

[Mr. W. A. Found]