

that these points with which I have dealt have come up from time to time and I have put them together to discuss under this item in order to urge upon the minister that he give serious and earnest consideration to the desperate plight in which the fishermen of Nova Scotia find themselves at the present time.

Mr. RHODES: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston) in his remarks, which I could not help but observe were highly and wholly critical, has covered a very wide field. At the outset of his remarks he proceeded to criticize very severely the report of Cockfield, Brown and Company. It may be that the findings as read by my hon. friend from that succinct and abbreviated digest of the report which has been brought down to parliament have not been happily worded, they may be more or less general in their terms, but I would point out to my hon. friend that he should bear in mind the fact that there was a very exhaustive examination made by this company covering a period of approximately nine months.

Mr. RALSTON: I am sure of that.

Mr. RHODES: Whatever criticism may be levelled at the terms of the findings, as read by my hon. friend, I think he should remember that as the result of that survey, the contacts formed and the interest stirred up in all branches of the fishing industry, ultimate benefits will be derived and up to the moment there have been some substantial benefits derived by the industry as a result of the work of that company. I think the best answer I can give in general terms to my hon. friend is to say that so far as I am aware no branch of the industry and no individual of whom I have heard has had anything but favourable comment to make in connection with the work of this company. I am speaking from memory, but that is my recollection of the situation. It may be that in the odd case there is an individual who may feel critical, but that happens in connection with all movements.

Mr. RALSTON: There was nothing to criticize because there was nothing there.

Mr. RHODES: Let me say this in a general way: We must walk before we run; we cannot, so far as government activity in regard to the fishing industry is concerned, create a new heaven and a new earth overnight. But I think in recent years there has been a marked stimulus in the fisheries, and there is a feeling throughout the industry that sympathetic consideration is being given to

their problems by the department and particularly by the officials to whom I wish to pay a tribute for the outstanding devotion they have displayed towards the interest of that industry.

My hon. friend referred to some remarks I made the other night with respect to the subject of Malagash salt; he did so in connection with observations made by the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Duff). I am at one with the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth in agreeing that the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough has a very wide and practical experience in the fishing industry, and I would be prepared at any time to defer to his judgment on practical points. But when I made the statement the other evening with respect to the merit of Canadian as against imported salt, I had not reference to Malagash salt as such, although I am prepared to deal with the question of Malagash salt. What I had in mind at that time was this, that while the salt as it is extracted in its natural form from that mine, may not be as suitable for the fishing industry as salt brought from the Mediterranean or Turks island, I am assured by those who are experts in the chemical side of the industry, that there is no reason in the world why, by a process of refining we cannot produce in Canada a salt that would be as suitable for the fishing industry as salt imported from Turks island. In fact I might say there are in that particular salt certain properties which have a deleterious effect on some of the fish cured. That, however, is more or less by the way.

Mr. RALSTON: Why impose the sales tax until that is demonstrated?

Mr. RHODES: My hon. friend brings up the sales tax and I am going to deal with that. He devoted the major portion of his remarks to a criticism of the tariff and the sales tax as applied to the products of the fishing industry. In that regard, I have no doubt he was within his right, and I think he was within the item itself in bringing that to the attention of the Minister of Fisheries but that subject is one which more properly ought to be discussed in ways and means. I have a hope, before the day is concluded, we shall be in ways and means, and at that time I shall be very happy to discuss the sales tax especially as applied to salt and to the usual coverings. I have a hope I shall be able to answer my hon. friend, possibly even to his satisfaction, when the subject is under consideration then.

My hon. friend would endeavour to make it appear that because of the action of this