

these seals, walrus and white whales would not be there. At any tide at Churchill or Nelson you can see from a hundred to a hundred and fifty white whales coming in; I have seen as many as a thousand come in with a shoal of these capling which they were chasing. So that it is utterly ridiculous to say that these are fresh water fish that simply run down the bay in the summer and go back into the fresh water lakes to spend the winter. I trust that the minister will make an endeavour to correct that foolish statement. I should very much regret to have such a statement made to anybody else besides myself, because it would certainly make him and his department appear very foolish.

I might read an extract from some of the evidence given by Doctor Edward E. Prince, former Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries. As government inspector of fisheries, he knew what he was talking about, I take it. At page 43 of the report of the Senate investigation in regard to Hudson bay and strait, Mr. Prince states:

I have for twenty-five years paid special attention to Hudson bay fishery resources. I have been to Nelson river, north of the Pas, and west, in what you might call the basin of Hudson bay. I went overland, not by Hudson strait.

In regard to fish, he says:

The true salmon does not appear to be frequent in Hudson bay. Its northern limit is, I think, Ungava bay. The Hudson bay salmon is called Hearn's salmon, after the British explorer Hearn, which runs from two to eighteen pounds. They are very abundant; they are a migratory fish and go in and out into the bay and up the rivers again. . . . Then there is a sea trout and flat fish. There is also the large white fish. White fish are typical fresh water fish, but in Hudson bay quantities come down and hang about the estuary. They are valuable food; they range up to six pounds. Then there is the lesser white fish, sometimes called herring, corresponding to the so-called lake herring, which are quite abundant. They are better than the sea herring, having less bone. Then there are gold-eye herring and true herring, and ling. Ling belongs to the cod family. It is a very ugly fish with a large head, something like a white fish.

This is from one who was an officer of the minister's department. I could go on reading documentary evidence for the next two hours, but all I ask the minister to do is to make a further investigation and find out for his own information and for the benefit of the government and of the country as a whole, just what exists in that bay, which is 750 miles long and 500 miles wide.

In regard to fish, the captain of one of the grain boats told me last fall that outside the strait he saw French and German vessels
[Mr. B. M. Stitt.]

He informed me the French vessels were always there but that, so far as he knew, that was the first time any German vessels had come there to fish. I do not think it is an unreasonable inference that these vessels were attracted to those fishing grounds because of the good catches they could make, for they would hardly come all the way from Germany and France merely for the sake of the scenery. They were there because the fishing was good. I am not familiar with the east side of the bay, but I have here an article that appeared in the Northern Miner, by Louis Martineau, who told of his experiences covering twenty-eight years in that country. I will read one or two extracts with reference to fish. He says:

The salmon fisheries on the east side of the bay could easily support two large canners, Mr. Martineau stated. He had caught 100 salmon in an hour with hook and line, and at the rivers they could be readily scooped out of the water with paddles.

Lobsters and other crustaceans are found on the east coast for one thousand miles, and Mr. Martineau has also picked up oyster shells, which would indicate beds of these bivalves. There are other mussels of all kinds in abundance. The lakes are full of salmon, white fish, and even eels are fairly plentiful.

Seals are in Hudson bay by the millions, said Mr. Martineau, seals of at least half a dozen varieties. There were the great grey seals that weigh up to 500 pounds, other varieties that go from 50 to 125 pounds in weight, and the small seals that weigh from 15 to 30 pounds.

Walrus are numerous in some sections, and because of its extreme thickness the hides are sought for making the heaviest machine belting.

Porpoises abound in the bay and there are easily enough of them there to break the United States monopoly on the extremely fine oil that is extracted from these fish, and that is used for watches and extremely fine precision instruments.

I do not need to go further, but I hope the minister will make it his business to get first-hand data before he writes more letters like the one to which I have referred, as he might innocently do that district a great injustice if it was circulated.

Mr. MacLEAN: There is a vote of \$11,000 for oyster culture, and I may tell the minister that we have been proceeding with this work in the province of Prince Edward Island for the last few years. In 1928 an agreement was entered into whereby the federal government took over and started to develop the great oyster areas which we had had there for a number of years. In 1924 a similar agreement had been drawn up, but it was never signed by the department. The 1924 agreement was prepared by the Hon. J. D. Stewart and the members of his provincial cabinet, and the present minister (Mr. Duranleau) was good