

Breton. The catch of the former class of vessels averaged 700 quintals per vessel, or about 508,200 quintals, and the shallops averaged about 300 quintals each, or 466,500 quintals in all, making a total of 974,700 quintals of fish, which would be worth roughly, at to-day's market price, \$6,000,000.

In 1871 the Nova Scotia catch was valued at \$6,570,000 and in 1872 at \$6,016,000. Continuously then year by year the sea has yielded up its wealth, to be had for the taking, in good years and bad, furnishing employment to a large population of as fine a class of citizens as exists in the whole Dominion.

So that it can be seen that this industry is a very old one, that it has furnished a means of livelihood to a large population for over a century and a half, and has been the base of substantial and steady commercial activity, and supplied a commodity which the province of Nova Scotia at any rate, as part of the Dominion of Canada, has utilized year by year to pay off a substantial portion of the annual foreign trade balance.

The exports of fish from Canada, according to the returns of the Statistical Department of the Marine and Fisheries and Naval Service Departments for the past ten years have been as follows:

1904-05.. . . .	\$11,114,318
1905-06.. . . .	16,025,840
1906-07.. . . .	10,362,142
1907-08.. . . .	13,867,368
1908-09.. . . .	13,319,664
1909-10.. . . .	15,663,162
1910-11.. . . .	15,675,544
1911-12.. . . .	16,704,678
1912-13.. . . .	16,336,721
1913-14.. . . .	20,623,560
Total .. . . .	\$149,692,997
Average.. . . .	\$14,969,299

The average annual export value of fish from the province of Nova Scotia alone has been \$6,141,093, while in 1914 the export rose to the banner amount of \$7,438,625. British Columbia coming second with \$6,946,231, and New Brunswick third among the provinces with \$2,437,469. So that while in the past decade the average annual catch has been \$28,097,973, the average annual export has been \$14,969,299.

Students of the present economic situation in Canada cannot fail to appreciate that the present great need of Canada is for increased production. For years we have carried on a great construction programme.

[Mr. McCurdy.]

We must now get down to the great question of a bigger production.

One of the great problems of Canada to-day is rural depopulation, with its corresponding increase in urban population. The production of natural products of the country is greatly exceeded by their consumption, which fact is one of the most important features to-day in the high cost of living. The people of cities must turn their attention to economy and to production; if it is not possible for them to produce in the cities, they must, of necessity, go to the land, or go to some other part of the country where their labour or knowledge can be utilized to produce wealth. They must utilize undeveloped land, they must exploit every avenue offering productive occupation.

We call, and properly, for improvement in conditions making easier the production of wealth from the soil, and improving the living conditions and attractiveness of rural life. I support the resolution which suggests consideration of ways and means to make possible a larger production of wealth from our fisheries, to remove any restrictions or drawbacks under which this portion of our productive populace labour, and that will lead to improvement in living conditions and an increase in the fishing population of the country.

I can safely assert that while the attention of Canada during the period of the past few years has been largely directed towards the development of the West, the resources and possibilities of the Maritime Provinces, where fundamental conditions are probably as sound as in any part of the world, have during that period been partially overlooked. But they are attracting more attention to-day. The production of the Maritime Provinces has always greatly exceeded consumption, and this excess has been piling up year after year as a great cash reserve. The vast majority of property there is free from encumbrance. Here may be found not only millions of acres of choice farm lands, plenteous timber and pulp limits, coal, iron ore, gold, copper, gypsum, limestone, petroleum, natural gas and other minerals, but, as important as any other, the fisheries.

All these resources are concentrated, and navigation is open twelve months of the year. In 1913-14 the exports of Canada were some \$300,000,000 below the imports. That situation has fortunately since been righted, but a substantial portion of the export is in the item of war munitions—the need for