

Q. That is in reference to Atlantic fish?—A. All kinds of fish.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the Committee has no more questions to ask Mr. Brittain I think it would be advisable now to have a very brief statement from Mr. Found in reference to the service which the department has provided for the distribution of fish from the Atlantic coast during the past two years.

Witness discharged.

Mr. W. A. FOUND, Superintendent of Fisheries: The service was started in 1913. It was under guarantee from the Department that the earnings of the car would be at least those on 10,000 pounds. We got the express and the railway companies together to agree to reduce the minimum from 20,000 to 10,000 pounds. That, of course, did not relieve the Department from paying one third of the express charges on shipments in this car. During the year 1913, I am sorry I have not the record here, the results looked pretty good. There were only four or five days, (I am speaking from memory and subject to correction) on which the minimum of 10,000 pounds was not being carried. But in 1914, for reasons which I will not attempt to go into at the present time, the shipments were not equal to those of 1913. A reference to page 15, in Roman Numerals, of the report of 1914-15, will show the details of that service. There were 34 trips made during that season, and of these 34 trips, 18 had less than 10,000 pounds, running one as low as 2,700 pounds on the trip up to about 6,000, or a little more, not nearly up to, but very seriously under the 10,000 pounds which made the service an extremely expensive one. It will be easily seen that it was not doing what was expected of it. The railway company was very anxious to discontinue it and after consideration of the whole matter in connection with the transportation companies and the fish dealers, it was agreed with the railway and express companies that there would be an extension of the fast freight service from Mulgrave and Halifax from one day to three days a week, and that has been in operation during the whole of the present year.

*By Mr. McCurdy:*

Q. Can you give us the financial result of the operation of the service for 1914 and for 1915? You said that it was unsatisfactory and you stated that on a certain number of days it was less than the 10,000 pounds. Can you give us the results on the whole year?—A. In 1915 it was not in operation. It was in the calendar year of 1914 that there were 18 trips out of 34 in which the shipments did not come up to the 10,000 pounds that I have stated.

Mr. McCURDY: The fish business was very much disorganized in that year and probably that was the reason.

Mr. F. T. JAMES called, sworn, and examined.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You reside in Toronto, do you not?—A. Yes.

Q. With what firm are you associated?—A. With the F. T. James Company.

Q. Are you president of that company?—A. I am president.

Q. I have asked Mr. Brittain a number of questions which I have prepared, some of which he answered and with regard to the others he said you would be prepared to deal with them. I would just ask you the same questions and you can answer them as briefly as you like until you reach those which have been deferred to be answered by you. What is the shrinkage in the weight of fish between the time of purchase from the fishermen and delivery to the retailer say, in Toronto?—A. The shrinkage is probably about five per cent from the time the fishermen puts the fish on the deck up to the time it is shipped, and anywhere from six to ten per cent shrinkage in the shipping weight on arrival in Toronto.

Q. Is there a further shrinkage before selling to the retailer?—A. Yes, there will probably be another four or five per cent I should judge.

F. T. JAMES.