

caught; that to send it across in refrigerated steamers, to be again transferred into cars at the port of landing, would not succeed at all where the fish has to be sent afterwards to such great distances; that it could only be kept fresh if it were never handled after being taken from the boats and packed in the cars.

Bring the fish over from Newfoundland in refrigerator cars on train-ferries, and before long it will be necessary to have, not a refrigerator car attached to an express train, but a rapid fish express consisting solely of refrigerator cars. In Great Britain this fish express takes precedence of all other trains, and if the demand for fish increases it may have to do so here, for fresh fish can be sent great distances if properly looked after.

Before the war, it was sent all over Europe from the North of Norway and Sweden, carried across the Baltic by the train-ferry between Trelleborg and Sassnitz.

So, too, in this country.

The report of the Conservation Commission of Canada for 1915, states that shipments of fresh halibut are regularly made on refrigerator cars from Vancouver, New Westminster and Prince Rupert to the cities of Eastern Canada, even to Toronto and Montreal, and that, though they take from four and a half to six days in transit they arrive in good condition provided they are fresh caught when sent off.

In the United States, at the present time regular shipments of many varieties of fresh fish are being sent from the Gulf of Mexico to Nashville, Louisville and Indianapolis in order to encourage the use of less meat by an increased use of fish—an agent of the Department of Agriculture is working with the Railroad Administration in handling the transportation, and the distribution is under the direction of State and city food administrators, in cooperation with the Bureau of Fisheries. The same thing could be done here.

Professor Prince, and there can be no greater authority, has stated that with help from the Government and under official supervision it would be quite possible to carry out a scheme all over the Dominion

for distributing fish to every town and village.

To take an example from your own Province of Quebec—if fish can be sent fresh for such great distances, and under such far more trying climatic conditions, so far as from the Gulf of Mexico to Louisville, it could surely be sent equally well from the great fishing grounds that stretch along the Bay des Chaleurs, grounds famous for centuries, which are in direct connection throughout the whole of their length with the railway which runs from Matapedia to Gaspé along the line of the coast and touches at various ports from which the fish could be shipped in an absolutely fresh condition, caught only a few hours before,—or better still it could be sent direct all the way up the great waterway of the Saint Lawrence. Quebec ought to have one of the finest fish supplies of any city in the world, with a great landlocked arm of the sea at her very gates, yielding her an inexhaustible supply of fish just as her mountain lakes yield her an inexhaustible supply of water.

A regular trade would lead to the fish being sent off in better condition; a very important matter. Professor Prince has called repeated attention to the careless way in which it is now handled by the fishermen at the time it is caught.

When they find they have a steady market and that they can get better prices for fish in first class condition they will take just as much care of it as fruit growers do of their fruit to prevent it being bruised or hurt.

With regard to the suitability of Gaspé or Paspébiac as the train-ferry terminus, Mr. J. F. Downey, a member of the Newfoundland House of Assembly, speaking on March 10th, 1914, on the Resolutions then before that House relating to the proposed train-ferry, made certain statements which are important, and which I will read to you:

"As far back as the year 1902 I realized that other facilities than those existing at Port-aux-Basques were requisite to the building up of a large fresh fish business, and I submitted to the Government of