

and get their vote on it. I think if there is nothing further that you want to hear from that standpoint, we might move to the British Columbia end of it.

Mr. WARD: I should like to inform Mr. Found of something. I think I am speaking for the fishermen of Lake Winnipegosis; I know them very well; they just live forty miles from my home, and we occasionally go there for a holiday. However, the experience, I am quite sure, of the majority of the fishermen is that summer fishing was not a success last summer. As this letter states, the pan-freezing facilities are very inadequate there, and I might tell you, Mr. Chairman, although I did not see this myself—I have it from residents of Winnipegosis—that the little scows they have there were taken across the bay and the fish forked out into the weeds and grass along the edge of the lake, and they could not dispose of them. That was the result of summer fishing.

WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, I think that I need not appeal to any one who will understand that situation better than you, or any other man who was in the fishing business last summer, and I would think that I will have the endorsement of those engaging in the fish business when I state that last summer should not be accepted as a criterion of what the marketing conditions for fish will be. I do not know whether the member is cognizant of the fact or not, but the fact remains that the cold storage plants of Manitoba, as well as the cold storage plants of Chicago and St. Paul were practically full of fish at the beginning of last season that were carried over from the season before, on account of the over-production. That had to be met with; normality had to be got back to, and last year was a very, very hard year. I would not like to say that because the fishermen did not make a satisfactory season last year that is a condemnation of summer fishing in lake Winnipegosis. Certainly summer fishing in lake Winnipeg has been a splendid thing to the fishermen, and the great majority of them want it. If they cannot sell their fish, of course we do not want the fish to be caught and we do not want them to be losing time, but if they can it is certainly in their interest to let them. When you come to the question of the prices of fish paid by the consumer in the West as compared with that received by the fishermen, you are of course raising another great big question. One thing the Department has sought to provide against at all times is difficulty on the part of the Canadian dealers in getting all the fish they want for the Canadian markets. If after that is done you are going to object to the exportation of fish, I find it very hard to see why you will not object to the exportation of wheat, for instance, why you are not going to let a fisherman be a man working for a living as well as anybody else; he has got to get a market for his fish, and the market does not exist in the West. If fishing is going to be carried on as an industry it must be gone on with mainly by supplying foreign markets. That condition exists all over Canada.

*By Mr. Bancroft:*

Q. There has been some mention of lake Winnipeg; it is in the constituency of Selkirk, which I have the honour to represent. There seems to be considerable dissatisfaction there about the size of mesh used, and it seems that is a recent regulation. It has been changed recently to a four and a half inch mesh. Was that taken up at the Winnipeg meeting?—A. Yes; the meshes were settled in conformity with the resolutions of the people. The mesh was reduced from five and a half for whitefish to five and a quarter. The same mesh for pickerel in lake Winnipeg was left as it was before. The majority of the people want it. Now, there is some difference of opinion there, Mr. Bancroft, but the majority of the people at that time at least, and I think the condition of the fishery and the catches they are making, all indicate the reasonable condition of the existing regulations. I would only like to add what I intended to add there, that to the members of this committee who have any doubt as to the wisdom of fish culture, in keeping up the fisheries, I would like them to get

[Mr. W. A. Found]