

mers through that country are looking for fertilizer, and have found great difficulty this year and last year in getting it.

The minister might look into this matter, and find what it costs to put up a plant, and, if a plant can be erected fairly economically, I think it would be a first class idea to start the plant somewhere else. I am not selfish enough to say that it should be along the coast of Inverness. The reason I mentioned Inverness was because we are suffering from dogfish, and we need the fertilizer and another reason why I now renew my application for a reduction plant in my county is that I had made arrangements with the Laurier Government to have such a plant built in my county and it would have been built in 1912 had the election of 1911 not taken place a year and a half before the usual time. The demand was not then as great as now from the standpoint of more farm production, as the country had a liberal supply of fertilizer. I desire to emphasize as strongly as possible the necessity of establishing these plants all along the shore. I refer to the counties of Inverness, Victoria and Richmond. The minister last year gave us the reason why he could not see his way clear to establish any more of these plants. He said it was because the plant at Canso cost a great deal. I am of the opinion—and my opinion is based on information I have been gathering from time to time—that these plants can be erected for a much smaller figure than the amount paid for the Canso plant, and I may point out that, when this Canso plant was erected, the proposition was in the experimental stage, and, since then, a great deal of information has been gathered with regard to the construction of the plant, and it is generally supposed by those who know something about it that a plant can be erected for much less any place along the coast. I claim, on that account, that the minister could very well appropriate an amount sufficient to erect a couple of those plants, and, in doing this, he would be rendering great assistance to the fishermen and farmers along the coast. I have addressed a few observations of this kind to the minister on several occasions. I do not think my efforts have produced very great results, but I believe in persisting, and I think the cause a sufficiently good one to warrant me in continuing my efforts, and probably in the end the minister will see that there is a great necessity for these plants. I hope he will take the matter into consideration and give it a little more thought than evidently he has given it in

[Mr. A. W. Chisholm.]

the past, and I will expect better results. If there is any great reason why this should not be done, I would like to hear it. So far, I have heard no good reason.

Mr. HAZEN: I do not want the hon. gentleman to think for a moment that I do not pay respect to suggestions made by him or by any other member, because I do, but I am sorry I cannot hold out much hope to my hon. friend that there will be any increase in the number of these factories. The policy of building these factories was inaugurated in 1904, when Mr. Prefontaine was Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and the expectation then was that the operation of these factories would prove so successful that private individuals would be glad to follow the example of the Government, and establish factories at different points for the purpose of manufacturing fertilizers, to be sold to the farmers throughout the country. This has not occurred. It may be that individuals could manage these plants perhaps more economically than governments are able to do, but the result of the enterprise and of what has taken place—and it was regarded largely in the light of an experiment at the time—has not been such as to justify any private individuals placing their money in enterprises of this sort, from the standpoint of a commercial undertaking, although it was stated to the House in 1904, I believe, that it was expected that that would be the case. The fertilizer produced is of a very valuable character, and very useful to the farmer, but it is found very difficult to get a sufficient supply of fish to keep the factory working to its capacity; in fact, the factory in my own province has been shut down altogether, the results have been so absolutely unsatisfactory. The result at Clarke's Harbour and Canso were more satisfactory, but at the same time every year there is a considerable deficit, and the number of dogfish procured would not have any appreciable effect upon the great number of dogfish that frequent the Atlantic all the way from Florida up almost to the waters of the arctic region. In the United States, although the establishment of factories of this sort has been advocated time and again, the authorities have always refused to establish them, and have taken the ground that it would be impossible to exterminate the dogfish by any means of that sort. All they are doing in the United States to-day is to encourage, as far as they are able, the manufacture of the fish for food under the name of grayfish, which is the name applied to them there. I assure