

on. I believe they catch something like twenty million pounds of fish by means of their trawlers and purchase between twenty and twenty-three million pounds of hook-and-line fish. So the granting of these licences gives us an opportunity to attach these conditions which will make it necessary for them to purchase these fish from these inshore fishermen. If the trawler licences were cancelled, I do not know who would buy these fish, which are a long distance away and which cost a great deal of money to get to Halifax. I suppose the government would be asked to purchase the fish, or something like that.

Mr. STEVENS: Yes, but the company bought and closed up a plant on the strait of Canso.

Mr. ILSLEY: I do not know the story of that plant.

Mr. STEVENS: I saw it there.

Mr. CAHAN: The cost of transportation from the port of Canso was too heavy to permit them to compete with shipments from Halifax.

Mr. ILSLEY: I have listened to evidence given at inquiries in regard to that plant at Canso, which at that time had six or seven trawlers. The agitation against trawlers became very hot, and they could not carry on without them.

Mr. STEVENS: No.

Mr. ILSLEY: Oh, yes; that evidence has been given repeatedly.

Mr. MICHAUD: Yes, that is what happened.

Mr. STEVENS: That is not what the local people say.

Mr. ILSLEY: I was interested in what was said by the hon. member for Kootenay East as to the point at issue; that is, he said it was not worth while arguing as to whether a steady or adequate supply of fish of a suitable type could be supplied otherwise than by the trawlers. "Why," he said, "look at the tremendous quantities of fish caught in Nova Scotia." He was not getting to the point. When you are dealing with a fresh fish market, it is of no use to have quantities of fish stacked up in Cape Breton or Yarmouth. An adequate supply of suitable fish means a supply when you want it, a steady supply, coming in day by day, which enables you to retain and, if possible, expand and develop your market. That was the point he did not argue; that was the point he said was not worth while arguing, but that is the issue the Minister of Fisheries has to decide.

[Mr. Ilsley.]

Mr. STEVENS: The fresh frozen fish would fill any gap.

Mr. ILSLEY: My hon. friend is back on that. He is suggesting that we change the consumer demand, which parliament cannot do.

Mr. STEVENS: No.

Mr. ILSLEY: I would suggest that the hon. member read the Cockfield Brown report. They went into nearly every retail store in Canada, and made an exhaustive census as to the demand for fresh fish compared with the demand for frozen fish. They came to the conclusion that the demand for fresh fish was very much greater than the demand for frozen fish. Now, does my hon. friend suggest that we do something in an attempt to force frozen fish down the throats of people who want to buy fresh fish? I never heard anything so irresponsible in this house.

Mr. STEVENS: It is not quite so silly as the minister seeks to make out. We are not quite as ignorant as he tries to suggest.

Mr. ILSLEY: But my hon. friend says, "If there are times when you cannot supply fresh fish and you have plenty of frozen fish, why not send them?" That was what he said. His statement can have no other meaning in the world than that which I have placed upon it.

Mr. NEILL: If I might ask a question, are not the fresh fish markets of the whole world governed from time to time by the weather conditions prevailing at nearby sources of supply?

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes, that is so; and practically every country in the world has overcome that condition by means of trawlers, of which there are four thousand in operation throughout the world. The United Kingdom relies on trawlers as its method of getting fresh fish; the United States, France and many other countries rely on trawlers. No one will suggest that there is any comparison between trawlers and dories as a means of catching fish in a storm.

Mr. NEILL: I did not ask that. I asked if the fresh fish markets in other countries were not subject to the exigencies of the weather in nearby sources of supply. I do not think you can get away from that.

Mr. ILSLEY: I do not think that is the case.

It has been said that every commission has found in favour of the abolition of the trawler. I was on one of these commissions, and at the time, on the evidence presented to