

asked the minister if the department could not see its way clear to send in a trawler to make a proper investigation by cruising down one side of the bay and up the other. His reply to me is rather painful. I do not know where the minister gets his information; I realize that he is new to the job and possibly the game is strange to him, but I must say that whoever supplies his information do not know very much about fishing in Hudson bay. In one paragraph of his letter the minister states:

My advice is that there never has been any question that fish exist in the portions of the bay about the estuaries of the rivers. The investigations made in 1930 bear this out. These fish are from the lakes and rivers that are tributary to the bay, as in these northern latitudes practically all the fresh water fish run down the rivers into the salt water during the summer months.

That is the paragraph to which I wish to take exception. In all fairness and in all kindness I wish to say to the minister that if he expects me to take a statement like that lying down he does not know the member for Nelson. The men who were carrying on this investigation last year, as I said, got a boat load of true salmon, not salmon trout. The Minister of Railways has told the committee that he had a treat when he ate some of this fish, as well as some of the herring that have been caught there as well. As a matter of fact the herring the minister ate was taken from the water by myself and delivered to his car, so it was really fresh when he got it. Of course the salmon was salted, as the fishermen could not keep it. After doing some local work around Churchill, where, however, they could not expect to get many fish because of the dredging, they took this small boat and cruised about two hundred or two hundred and fifty miles up the bay. For the benefit of the committee I will read one or two extracts from the report. On the 18th of June they caught 210 pounds of salmon around the harbour, and after that they sailed up the bay almost as far as Chesterfield inlet. On that trip they caught 1,150 pounds of salmon, 3,430 pounds of salmon trout and 2,060 pounds of cisco, which is a type of herring. The report continues:

Having caught their load around Sentry island the Utto Sverdrup continued north to make further explorations. They went as far as Dawson inlet, which lies approximately fifty miles to the north of Eskimo point.

That would be about 200 miles north of Churchill.

In the Dawson inlet region they again caught salmon. Likewise they caught a few cod as they did further south. They did not remain long in this region but prepared to return to Churchill with their load.

All along the coast the bay waters are full of capling, a species of the herring family. It is believed the white whale feeds almost entirely on these. The salmon and the cod feed on them also.

These capling were to be found wherever they sailed. In places where they anchored in shallow water and could see to the bottom, in some instances a depth of 20 feet, they sighted immense schools of capling.

With reference to this trawling expedition that went into the bay I appreciate the efforts of the government in that connection. I think they were sincere, but whoever instructed that trawler certainly did not know very much about Hudson bay. They were instructed to go to the centre of the bay and cruise up and down in water hundreds of fathoms deep. These are bank fish, as they are in Nova Scotia and everywhere else, and that trawler should have cruised up and down the banks on the east and west side. The minister has stated that this was the very best captain and the very best boat obtainable. I have nothing to say in that regard, but in my opinion it was more of a Cook's tour than a fishing expedition. They were very well stocked with something that brought them lots of cheer, and I am credibly informed that some of it was sold around Churchill at a very good figure. So after all this trawling expedition which has been mentioned so often was only a number of men having a good time at the expense of the government. I do not blame the government for that, however; I think they were sincere in their endeavour to locate fish.

The east side of the bay, which is in Quebec and in which hon. members of that province will probably be interested, has a shore line of approximately 1,200 miles. There is deep water on the east coast and it is said the fish are much more plentiful there than on the west coast, but when I am told by the minister that the fish go into the fresh water and that they are fresh water fish, all I can say is that whoever gave him that advice did not know what they were talking about. They are not fresh water fish; they do not go into the fresh water lakes in the winter, after spending the summer in the bay. Neither do the white whales, of which there are thousands, go up into fresh water; neither do the seals, of which there are also thousands. These are both the small hair seals weighing from 25 to 50 pounds and the great grey seals weighing up to 750 pounds. The same applies to all the other mammals. Often you will see as many as 200 walrus weighing up to a ton each, on the islands along the east coast. These mammals live exclusively on fish, and I think it is quite reasonable to suggest that if there were no fish in the bay,