

only answers to a recession in sales and to the disturbing features presented to both packers and primary fish producers.

I would welcome, therefore, information on the point of my original inquiry as to whether any study is being given or will be given to the re-establishment of this industry's foreign trade.

In the *Ottawa Journal* of Thursday, June 12, Canada's Minister of Resources, in addressing an American audience, is reported as having said:

The products of our mines, fields and forests contribute not only to our standard of living but to the strength of our defences. Canada's resources have become a bulwark in the defence of a free world whose need for them has grown with its preparations to defend itself.

Let us add the products of the sea to the list of factors contributing to our living standard and to the resources which may be spoken of with pride as part of Canada's sound economic structure.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. A. K. Hugessen: Honourable senators, in the absence of the leader of the government, (Hon. Mr. Robertson), there are perhaps one or two remarks that I should add to this discussion.

I am afraid that I was totally incompetent to follow the honourable member who has just spoken (Hon. Mr. Doone) because of my almost total ignorance of the subject which he discussed in such an interesting manner. The only observation I should like to make with regard to what he said is that it has been my understanding that during the last two or three years the Department of Fisheries had been extremely active along the lines suggested by the honourable senator. The department is extremely well staffed and is doing its best to procure and obtain markets for the fishery products of the Maritime Provinces.

Hon. Mr. Farris: And we have a very capable Minister of Fisheries.

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: Yes.

I should like at this time to say a word about the extremely eloquent speech made by our honourable colleague from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar). The compliments he has already received make it unnecessary for me to say anything except that I listened to him with a great deal of pleasure and a considerable degree of profit.

I agree entirely with the leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) as to the value which has come to be attached during the last two or three years to the reports which the Finance Committee has made to this house each year under the direction of my good friend from

Churchill. I am not as apprehensive as they are, however, about the absence of effect of these reports upon the public mind. I have noticed in the last two or three years, in increasing degree, a tendency on the part of the newspapers to comment very favourably in their editorial columns on the reports rendered by the Finance Committee and, indeed, to give considerable publicity and support to the recommendations contained in these reports. I have no doubt that the present report will fall into line and take its place with those which have come from the same source in former years. There is no doubt that this report contains valuable information, and I have every expectation that over the course of the next few weeks it will be quoted with approval by the press of the country. I should add that not only does the press give favourable notice to these reports, but that the public itself is beginning to realize that they contain a most interesting survey of general conditions in the country, a survey which is completely divorced, as has been said by the leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig), from any question of partisan politics.

In conclusion, I should like to say that we fully appreciate all the work that the chairman and the members of the committee have done in preparing this report. At the same time, I think we should always remember that the basis of the information which these reports contain is prepared for us by the members of our civil service—

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Hugessen:—and I think that at this stage we should extend a word of commendation to the members of the civil service who appeared before this committee, and who prepared, itemized and tabulated the extremely valuable information that the report contains.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. G. P. Burchill: Honourable senators, I wish to join in the tribute that has been paid to the senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) for the magnificent work that he did as Chairman of the Finance Committee, and for his wonderful address of this afternoon. As a member of the committee I can testify to the tremendous amount of labour that the Chairman put into his task, and I am sure the report will justify everything that has been said about it this afternoon.

I regret very much that it was necessary to present the report at such a late hour of the session, when only a relatively few members of the Senate were present to consider it. Let us hope for an improvement in this respect next session.