

better service than we are getting. But the express companies are doing nothing to improve the service, we have to develop the trade but they are doing nothing to assist.

Q. Would it not be possible to bring all your shipments over the Intercolonial?—A. No it would not—we could do so—but let me say that the only reason for shipping fish by express and paying more than double the regular charges on it is to get quick transit and prompt delivery. Now in shipping by way of the Intercolonial via St. John the train leaves there at about 6 o'clock, 6.30 or 7 o'clock in the evening, an hour after the C.P.R. That Intercolonial train will only reach Montreal on the following evening at 6.30 p.m.—by the C.P.R. it leaves St. John at 5.30 p.m. and the fish will be in Montreal at 8.30 the following morning and is delivered on the arrival of the train. By the Intercolonial Railway the fish arrives at 6.30 p.m. and we could not get delivery until the following morning, making really 24 hours.

Q. But if you had proper refrigerator car service would not that preserve the fish and land it in proper condition.—A. Well, of course, the refrigerator car would help to preserve the fish in transit, but that is not the main point.

Q. The main point you say, is this, that you pay the express companies high rates for a good service and that they are not in return giving you the service that you are entitled to. Is there any other way out of it? Instead of running your fish through the private express companies is there a way out by the Intercolonial keeping the business in its own hands? Do you think it would be possible for it to do so?—A. I think the best method of handling the fish business is by developing it and by increasing the shipments offering. The best means of improving the transportation would be for the railway companies to give a better service, a refrigerator freight service; they should provide refrigerator cars, properly built, properly iced and give a quick service.

Q. A quick freight service?—A. A quick freight service, and make it a real quick service. They could improve it a great deal; there is no reason why there should be so much difference in time between express and freight. We have had it proven in connection with other commodities, where we have competition, that they can give a quicker service. If enough fish business were developed to make competition, you would have this difficulty remedied; the industry would help itself, because there would be a volume of business for which all the transportation companies would be competing. The only advantage, since they all have their rates exactly alike would be in the quickness of the service. They move hogs and other live stock very quickly into Chicago because there is a big volume of business and there is competition; it would be the same with regard to fish if the volume of business offered.

*By Mr. Stewart (Lunenburg):*

Q. You say that the service was crippled last summer because there was an insufficient volume of business offering?—A. There was not sufficient fish business offering to make use of the entire service provided. The Naval Service Department of the government had arranged with the railways for refrigerator cars to be available on Saturday, Monday and Thursday, or Wednesday, but there was not enough business to permit of our using the whole of that accommodation.

Q. Where is the lack of business? Is it because the fish are not being offered on the coast, or because there is not a market for it?—A. There is not a market. What we want is a greater market; we want a better chance to develop the business.

Q. Are the fish dealers generally doing anything to improve the market in their own interest?—A. How do you mean? Are they doing anything?

Q. By the use of advertising matter the same as in any other business?—A. Yes, the dealers are doing their utmost to induce the retail merchants to improve their facilities and to increase their fish trade.

Q. Do you handle salted and dried or cured fish at all?—A. We do.

Q. Is there much demand in Montreal markets say for dried cod?—A. No, very little. You mean the dried cod put up in bundles?