

I am only here to express the views of the fishermen; that is why they sent me here. They sent me here especially. When they got their copies of the Bill, of the Amendment to the Fisheries Act, which says something about the trawlers but places no restrictions upon them except that they must be of Canadian register—if they are of Canadian register they might have one hundred of them.

If they are going to bring in more trawlers it will leave our fishermen more at the mercy of the big corporations than before. The fishermen wired me about it, asking me if I would be able to go to Ottawa and see if this was the last word on the trawler question, that they would pay my expenses, and that if that was the last word they might as well pack up and "git". I have here a statement of what they think about it. They claim that if given a chance they can supply the markets. Since the service was inaugurated in the fall of 1927 we have increased our supply of fresh fish immensely. In that service large sections of the coast that were unable to sell fresh fish before are now selling fresh fish, and at certain times of the year, even now, with the poor equipment the fishermen are doing so despite adverse conditions. The Maritime Fish Corporation is kept busy with shore-caught fish. We have increased the quantity of our production immensely since these boats were put out, and if given a chance the fishermen will double and treble their catch in no time.

Last year the in-shore fishermen landed about 73,000,000 pounds of fresh fish, and these figures do not refer to fish put up in fillet form; almost 73,000,000 pounds of fresh fish landed by the shore fishermen, not counting what was sold as filets. That goes up into millions of pounds also.

I am told that some years ago, perhaps fifteen or twenty years ago, the Federal Government put restrictions upon the lobster canneries; and they forbade any more canneries to be erected, and no more canneries could be erected unless a license were given by the government. I am told further that all those who applied for licenses were refused. That is putting restrictions upon trade.

If the reports were correct, an order in council was passed last year forbidding the killing of the walrus up north, which was a severe blow to the fur-traders. That was done to protect the aborigines. The walrus was being depleted. It was for the benefit of the aborigines that that order in council was passed.

All these are restrictions. Would it not be better also to pass restrictions upon the steam trawlers, since the Royal Commission say that it is of no use, that either the trawler must go or the fishermen must go. Is it not a better policy for the government to retain our people here? We have no better class of men, no braver class of men, and no more rugged class of people than our fishermen. There are no more expert sailors in the British Navy than our fishermen on the coasts of Canada. They go out in snow storms at two or three o'clock in the morning, in an open boat, to do their work. They are iron men. The biggest asset we have in the country are our men; the biggest asset we have is the human asset.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. Where do the men on the trawlers come from?—A. Some are strangers, some are foreigners, some Canadians. There are only 249 men employed on trawlers. On the fishing vessels, smacks and other vessels they have about 48,000 men employed. That is what the report says; men employed on steam trawlers 249; men employed on smacks, etc., 48,519. More men are engaged in the in-shore fishing than in trawler fishing. We have more men, and our men have a lot more money invested in the fishing business than the corporations have.