

Mr. BLAIN. How many Canadian commissioners will be appointed ?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Probably five, who will be chosen from the best people we can find, but the chief work will be done by Professor Prince, the Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries and Mr. Blacock the Fishery Commissioner for British Columbia.

Management and expenses of government educational fish curing establishments—the proceeds of the same to revert to the appropriation, \$12,000.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. We intend to proceed in this matter as the Department of Agriculture did in reference to butter and cheese factories.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Where are these establishments ?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. One at Souris, in Prince Edward Island. We propose to treat codfish.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I understood you were making experiments with regard to curing herring ?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. We intend to test an improved mechanical process in the curing of codfish.

Construction and maintenance of experimental works for the reduction of dog-fish, \$60,000.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. We would like to hear something about this vote.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. It is provided that \$50,000 will be spent in maintaining these establishments in the maritime provinces, and \$10,000 in British Columbia. From the information we have already acquired we hope that the results of these experiments will be successful.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It was stated by a member from British Columbia last session that they profitably made use of these dog-fish for commercial purposes, without assistance from the government. Has the minister investigated that ?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Yes, and the result of the investigation is that the concern which was conducting these operations threatened to close up their works, and we found that they were in a very bad financial position.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Has the minister any opinion as to whether this vote had anything to do with their threatening to close up ?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. We have agreed that we will guarantee the British Columbia concern against loss to the extent of \$10,000 for the operations of the year. I may say that in British Columbia it is absolutely necessary to maintain works of that kind on account of the large salmon packing concerns. It

is necessary that all the debris from these factories should be gathered and treated for fertilizing purposes at a certain point. This factory has been in operation for the past two or three years and has had very poor success, and it stands to reason that in helping them through we are helping the salmon fisheries, because if something of this kind was not done I am quite sure we would be obliged to establish works of this kind in order to protect the public health.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why should the government go into the business of treating salmon offal. I thought the salmon business was a very profitable one and did not need assistance, although it might be necessary to provide for the disposal of the dog-fish.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. They are doing both. I have seen in the nets thousands and thousands of dog-fish caught and they are put back into the sea. When we have these reduction works there is an inducement for these fishermen to keep them, and that is what we are attempting to do in British Columbia as in the maritime provinces.

Mr. ALEX. JOHNSTON. Has the department taken steps to inquire whether or not these dog-fish can be canned as other fish are and a market found for a considerable number in that way ? I would ask if a proposition of that kind has been made to the department looking to the establishment of a canning factory for dog-fish ? The matter is well worth looking into.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. This is going on at the present moment in a small way and we intend to carry on the experiments on a larger scale. We are having some of these dog-fish prepared and packed sent out to different countries to find if possible a market for them. That is done in some other places and people who have tried dog-fish flesh have found it to be wholesome and there is no reason why we should not prepare these fish as they do in other countries.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Do I understand that the minister intends to try it on members of parliament first ?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. If they want to try it it is their own business, but I do not want to impose it on them.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. Might I ask how many reduction establishments the minister intends to arrange for in Nova Scotia and whether they will be in various parts of the maritime provinces ?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. At the present moment it is more of an experiment than anything else. This year we propose that there shall be two in operation, one at Canso and one at Cape Sable.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. There have not been so many dog-fish this year ?