

Mr. SMITH: In my opinion there is no substitute for a real fresh fish just taken from the water.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: I agree.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: In regard to the shipments of fish products to the United Kingdom, I notice there is a great variation here. Surely it cannot all be due to the dollar situation. I notice, for instance, in your list of the annual value of exports of fisheries from Canada to the NATO countries, 8.80 millions of dollars worth were shipped to the United Kingdom in 1951, 1.31 in 1952 and 1.78 in 1948. There is a great variation there and the dollar situation has not improved very much. What is the reason for that variation?

Mr. SMITH: Well, senator, there is almost a complete prohibition on some exports to the United Kingdom. It must be done on import licence, and I think in the places where you notice an increase there is a special consideration given in those years to certain items that are imported in those years.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: They gave you special treatment in the years that the larger shipments took place such as 1951, 1950, and 1949.

Mr. SMITH: I would assume so, senator. This year, as you will remember, the United Kingdom has taken from British Columbia some 4,250,000 pounds of canned salmon. This will show for 1953 and will be quite an increase over 1952.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL: I should like to ask a question about Portugal. Is it the high cost of production that keeps you out of the Portugal market now?

Mr. SMITH: With your permission I shall ask Mr. Whitman to answer that question. He is in the salt fish business.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Whitman, would you come forward, please?

Mr. WHITMAN: It is not a question of the high cost of production. I would say about twenty years ago the government of Portugal decided they were going into the fish business on their own, and their aim was to be self-supporting. That is what they are trying to do, but as stated in the brief they are still buying large quantities of fish from other countries rather than Canada. It is purely a question with respect to the exchange situation.

The CHAIRMAN: They buy in the sterling area, I presume?

Mr. WHITMAN: Yes, from Iceland and Norway.

The CHAIRMAN: And do they come to the Grand Banks?

Mr. WHITMAN: Yes, and that fleet has been increasing considerably particularly since the war, sir.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL: What about the West Indies market like Haiti. Have we lost the business there?

Mr. WHITMAN: Not entirely, sir.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL: Is there still a big shipment of salt fish from Newfoundland?

Mr. WHITMAN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL: It is not mentioned in the report. Is it a substantial quantity?

Mr. WHITMAN: No.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL: It is a small market?

Mr. WHITMAN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: Is the home market increasing? I suppose it increases every year?

Mr. SMITH: It is increasing but very gradually. The per capita consumption has increased about two pounds in the last five years.