

6-7 GEORGE V, A. 1916

Q. It has to go to waste, or a fish not fit for food is being sold to the people?—A. If you do that you hurt your fish business. We would rather throw it away than sell it if it is not right.

Q. The consumer, in the end, has to pay for that loss?—A. Naturally, we have to add that to our cost.

Q. Can you tell us the reason for the great spread in the price between the price paid by the wholesaler and that which is paid by the consumer?—A. The cost of handling that fish is the main point.

Q. What are those costs?—A. Help and delivery principally. It costs 6 cents a parcel to deliver.

Q. What weight is the average parcel?—A. In fish the average is about, say, a four-pound fish, that is haddock; they run from three to five pounds, but the average is four pounds.

*By Mr. McCurdy:*

Q. If the purchaser came to your shop and carried the fish home himself, could he buy it for 6 cents less?—A. If we could arrange to do it that way, it would be very nice. But we have to charge all customers the same.

*By Mr. Stewart (Lunenburg):*

Q. You do not have the two retail prices, one over the counter and one at the home?—A. That is beyond our possibility. We cannot do that; you have to average them all. But we are working that up all the time. We close our books every month. We are trying now to work out the cost of each department, so in that way we would be able to find out.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. It costs you now between one and a quarter and one and a half cents a pound to deliver fish?—A. Between one and a half and two cents.

Q. What is the profit per pound, if you do not mind?—A. It would depend on the time of the year. At certain times we buy fish pretty reasonably. Now we buy at 6 cents per pound, the original price, without taking off the shrinkage.

Q. At what price do you sell?—A. Seven to nine cents. We have specials every day. This week, for instance, we sell haddock at seven cents, practically at cost price.

Q. Are you selling it at seven cents now?—A. This week, Mondays and Wednesdays.

Q. Is it frozen?—A. Oh, fresh fish. We do not handle any frozen if we can help. The only fish we sell frozen is lake fish, because we cannot get anything else.

*By Mr. Kyte:*

Q. Where do you get your haddock at this season of the year?—A. If we cannot get it from Eastern Canadian points, we get it from Boston. When we import haddock from Boston we often sell it for less than it costs us; we do not like to vary the price.

Q. Do you get considerable quantities at this season of the year?—A. We generally do. The past season is one of the best we have had, and the amount we required was very large.

Q. One of the witnesses called here said absolutely that none of the fish sold in Montreal was imported from Boston. That is not true?—A. No. We have imported from Boston at least three days a week.

Q. I think it was Mr. Brittain who made that statement?—A. Well, we have imported three times a week at least from Boston, sometimes oftener.

Q. Are you getting any from Nova Scotia at this season of the year?—A. Yes. We had 17 cases come in on Tuesday morning.

Q. From what point, from Halifax?—A. From Halifax or somewhere down in that district.

MR. J. S. STANFORD.