

report from the Department of Fisheries. It is entitled, "Reports on fisheries investigations in Hudson and James bays and tributary waters." I am going to make a few citations so that the house will realize that there are both fresh water and salt water fish in Hudson bay. I wish to remove any wrong impression that there may be in this regard. It has always seemed strange to me that whenever new developments are proposed to be undertaken in that northern country there are people who view the proposals with skepticism. I remember the campaign that was conducted against bringing the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railway through the territory through which it now runs, which was described as a country of stunted poplar and bottomless muskeg. The same skepticism is observable to-day with regard to the natural resources in Hudson bay and James bay.

Mr. RYCKMAN: What is the date of that report?

Mr. BRADETTE: 1914. At page 24 the report, speaking of codfish, which is a salt water fish, says:

Cod are known to occur in Hudson bay. A few schooners from St. John's fish in Hudson straits and Ungava bay every year. There would apparently be, therefore, no reason why these fish should not exist in larger quantities than have yet been found.

As I stated a moment ago, the operations that were conducted in Hudson bay in 1930, covering only a few days, were too brief to allow the real situation to be discovered. They had to cover seven hundred square miles of water in a period of about two weeks. At page 34 of this report I find this:

The other species of the west coast are not of a great deal of economic importance; rock-cod occur in the bay and it is said that the true cod does also, but there is no record of a single specimen of either of them ever having been found on the west coast.

Besides the strictly fish wealth, there are other forms of marine life possessed of considerable value; one such is the white whale, another is the seal. The former occurs in great numbers and as he is quite valuable for his oil,—of which he yields 100 gallons each, it may be expected that an industry founded on his products will develop as soon as the market is brought near enough to the place of production. The seal is not the fur seal but its hide makes extraordinary waterproof bags, boots, gun-covers, and so on.

I could give many other quotations from this report proving clearly that there are salt water fish in those waters. Speaking of seals the report says:

At certain periods, notably in September, when the fish enter the rivers, seals follow them up. In the western portion of the bay

visited they all appeared to be of one species, which I take to be the "barbed seal," *Erignatus barbatus*. I shot three of them, but unfortunately secured only one which floated some days later and was partly eaten by bears.

This proves that there are fish in commercial quantities in Hudson bay. I believe the administration is sympathetic towards the development of this great natural resource. In the report of 1914 it was said that it was almost impossible to develop any fisheries in Hudson bay because of the lack of communication; but to-day with the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario terminus at Moosomee and the Hudson bay railway terminus at Churchill, a twenty-four hour service could be given to the markets of Montreal and Toronto for any fish caught in James bay and Hudson bay. I hope the government will find it possible to extend the exploratory work that they so well started in 1930. Last year the present Minister of Finance said that once a proper basis was established at Hudson bay this exploratory work would be extended. As I have already stated, with these two railroad terminals, it would be very easy to continue the survey work with a few flat-bottomed boats, and to test the commercial possibilities of the fisheries by the use of one or two trawlers stationed at those points. I know that the Minister of Railways, although a northern Ontario man, does not believe very much in the fisheries of Hudson bay.

Mr. MANION: I understand my hon. friend quoted me a few minutes ago when I was not in the house. I should be glad if he would tell me what he said.

Mr. BRADETTE: I suppose the Minister of Railways was speaking in a jocular vein, but towards the end of last session when we were going up in the elevator he told me he would pay their weight in gold for any salt water fish caught in Hudson bay.

Mr. MANION: I take exception to that statement. I never in my life, either in a private conversation or publicly, said anything of the kind. If my hon. friend desires to quote my views with respect to the fishing possibilities in Hudson bay, I wish he would rely on a speech or public statement of some kind, because I do not care to be quoted on the strength of some conversation, whether real or imaginary.

Mr. BRADETTE: Then I will take those words back, although I think they were uttered. I told the minister at the time that I hoped he would be wealthy enough some day to make good his promise. I am glad to realize that the Minister of Railways thinks there are salt water fish in Hudson bay.