

given in this report, and they are very striking. I shall read some further conclusions from this report to which I have not yet drawn the attention of the House. It says :

That every effort be made to shorten as much as practicable the time of the through freight train running between Mulgrave and Montreal and that close connection be secured, if possible, for points west of Montreal.

That is a matter which I propose to bring to the attention of the Minister of Railways as it does not concern the Department of Agriculture.

That the department of the Federal government having charge of the cold storage operations be requested to assist the transportation of fresh fish in less than car-load lots in the same way as they are at present assisting the shipping of butter and cheese to Montreal.

I understand from the minister that this assistance is given for the purpose of export for England. If it be desirable in that case it would be equally desirable to do it for the purpose of building up the trade between our own provinces, and I have not the slightest doubt that with such assistance as is suggested in this report a very large trade in fresh fish may be built up between the maritime provinces and the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. It is of very great importance to the fishermen of the maritime provinces that this should be done, because they could get very much more for their fish in that way than they can by curing their fish and exporting it to the West Indies or Brazil. In the interests of the fishermen of the maritime provinces, as well as in the general interests of the country which would be advanced by building up that interprovincial trade, the suggestions made in this report very well deserve the attention of the government.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I fully appreciate the advantage of such work as is there suggested. The matter has not come under my own special notice inasmuch as I have been dealing in all this cold storage matter in reference to agricultural products. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has taken up the question of cold storage for bait in connection with the fisheries, and I shall be very glad to discuss with him the possibility of providing the facilities necessary for that interprovincial trade in fresh fish. While our cold storage trade arrangements are guided by the interests of the export trade, yet our refrigerator cars are also available for the internal trade. For instance, butter or poultry or fruit consigned from Toronto to Montreal or from Windsor to Toronto can be put in these cars just as if these products were billed for export. There is no discrimination made, but still all our organization has been carried on with the object of dealing with the export trade, and it was with that view that the House voted the money originally. I sympathize very much with the desire of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr.

Borden) to encourage our interprovincial trade, and if the House should see fit I am disposed to think that the cold storage arrangements which have been found so successful might be extended to the trade in fresh fish.

MR. HACKETT. Some time ago the Minister of Agriculture informed me that there were negotiations pending for the purpose of providing cold storage between Prince Edward Island and Great Britain. How far have these negotiations progressed? Spring is now here; shipping will be moving and it is essential in the interests of the farmers of Prince Edward Island that they should have the same facilities which the people of the other provinces have for shipping their products in cold storage to England.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The cold storage would, of course, come under my department, but the arrangement for a service from Prince Edward Island to Great Britain comes under the Department of Trade and Commerce. We have had a standing offer for a number of years that any ships leaving Prince Edward Island for Great Britain should get the same terms for cold storage as ships leaving Halifax, St. John and Montreal. If there is not a regular service from Prince Edward Island we cannot make arrangements for cold storage accommodation. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright) is now negotiating with two or three ship-owning firms for a service this year, and which, I trust, will last longer than this year. I have made an offer to these firms to give them encouragement for cold storage accommodation. More than that, the Minister of Trade and Commerce has told them distinctly, in conjunction with myself that no vessel which is not properly fitted up with mechanical cold storage will be accepted for the Prince Edward Island trade. I may say that last year and the year before, some slight arrangements were made in regard to vessels sailing from Prince Edward Island; but these vessels were not fitted up with mechanical cold storage. They were supplied partly with refrigerator chambers cooled by ice; but, as has been found in the trade from other ports of Canada, these chambers are not satisfactory. While better than nothing, they are not what we think is due to the trade in food products from Prince Edward Island. I, therefore, urged very strongly on my colleagues, and they have agreed with me and insisted upon it, that any vessel getting a subsidy for service from Prince Edward Island to English ports shall be fitted up with mechanical cold storage of the most modern type and description.

MR. HACKETT. I am very thankful to the hon. gentleman for his explanation; but I wish to distinguish between him and the