

APPENDIX No. 3

By Mr. Sinclair:

Q. Mr. Found, there is one thing that has struck me in this examination, and that is the apparent want of co-operation between the Naval Service Department and the Railway Department. There does not seem to be unison to promote this business. For example, the freight rates were raised on smaller shipments to short distances in the east in 1912. The refrigerator car was discontinued on the Maritime express, as you say, last year. The minimum quantity of a carload lot was raised from 20,000 to 24,000 pounds, and the departments do not seem to have got together. What do you say about that? Do they meet with one another and talk these matters over? Have you anything to do with the railway people?—A. No, sir. We have had agreements with the railway people as to the best methods of developing the fish trade, and I have found a warm spirit of co-operation.

Q. When these things are done, I would expect you to go to the Railway Department and throw rocks at them, or do something to straighten them out. Did you have any controversy with them about it?

The CHAIRMAN.—That is a matter that the Minister—

A. I could not well answer questions of that kind.

Mr. STEWART (Lunenburg).—It is not a fair question.

Mr. SINCLAIR.—I think it is. When a change is contemplated by the Railway Department that affects the fresh fish shipments, would it not be a proper thing to notify the Fisheries Department and get their views before doing anything of that kind? Surely it would.

By Mr. Loggie:

Q. Would it be in order for me to ask, are the Government considering discontinuing paying one-third of the express charges?—A. It would be proper to ask it, but I cannot answer it.

Witness discharged.

Mr. J. A. STANFORD called, sworn and examined.

By the Chairman:

Q. You are in the retail fish business in Montreal?—A. That is a branch of our business, yes.

Q. Do you do a pretty large business in that line?—A. Yes, between six and seven thousand pounds a week.

Q. How long have you been engaged in that business?—A. Nine years.

Q. Can you tell what the shrinkage in the weight of the fish is between the time of its being taken, we will say, from the trade, and the time when it reaches the retailer?—A. I have not got much knowledge of that, but I know what the shrinkage is from the time we buy it.

Q. What is the shrinkage from the time it reaches the retailer?—A. About 10 per cent. On a close average of say 300 pounds we figure on losing about 30 pounds of that.

Q. That is the shrinkage after you get it on your premises?—A. It shrinks again after that. It depends on how long we keep it; perhaps 5 per cent shrinkage again.

Q. Is there a loss, by reason of deterioration in the quality of the fish?—A. Oh, yes, we often have to dispose of some that is not acceptable.

Q. What percentage would that be?—A. Another 5 per cent.

Q. Your store is pretty well equipped with refrigeration?—A. At the present time it is.

Q. At a place where there is not proper equipment, what would be the loss?—A. In summer time 25 per cent easily if they have not proper fish accommodation.

MR. W. A. FOUND.