

ence in matters of that kind, because he was a member of the Duncan Commission. Then we had as Chairman, the Honourable A. K. Maclean, President of the Exchequer Court.

It is now the wish of the fishermen that the report of that Royal Commission which, taken on the whole, is very wisely constructed, should be implemented as fully and as quickly as possible. Many recommendations were made in which we are particularly interested. They are all important, but there are some of them that we think are of major importance, and those we consider to be the following: First, the establishment of a separate Department of Fisheries, with a good man at the head of it, a man of good executive ability, and a man of energy besides, if such a man can be obtained.

Secondly, we consider that the question of long-term loans for fishermen is one of major importance, and thirdly, the biggest question of all is the steam trawler question.

We believe that the steam trawler question is at the root of the whole thing. We believe that you cannot cure an evil unless you strike at the roots of it. You might create markets in the future, as you have in the past; you might establish a department of publicity, and be as active as you please in getting larger markets, yet, if you enlarge your markets and if you are at the same time going to bring in more trawlers to supply the increased demand, and you leave out the shore fishermen, you are going to have the same conditions as we have had before; we are going to be left in the same position as we were before; and we are going to be left to the mercies of the big fish corporations, and the fisheries question will not be settled at all. There are a number of steam trawlers operated from Halifax and east, and I suppose that if we had not one single fisherman left in Nova Scotia those trawlers would be sufficient to supply the demand. The fact is that the fish corporations are dealers and producers; they produce on a grand scale, and naturally they dispose of the catch of their trawlers first, and when their cold storage plant is full or half full of steam trawler fish, they come to the fisherman and say, "We have lots of fish, but just to help you out we will take your fish; here is our price, three cents apiece for haddock, or one cent per pound." Why, it costs one cent a pound to catch fish. They cannot live on those prices.

We say that if the fishermen were given a chance, if they were given a sufficiently high price to give them some heart to remain in the industry, to get better equipment, we believe it would not be necessary to have trawlers to supply the market. Our fishermen say they can fish in all seasons to supply the market, and if they can fish off Boston and Gloucester in open vessels at all seasons of the year, there is no reason why it should not be done in Nova Scotia just as well as at Boston.

But they cannot get better equipment at one cent per pound for fish. If there is a possibility of supplying the market, and if they are given a chance, if they are told "We are going to give you a paying price for your fish, go to it and see what you can do," you would find out that in a short space of time the fishermen would be able to get all the fish they could handle.

*By Mr. Short:*

Q. That one cent per pound you refer to, is that not the summer price?—

A. Yes, I think I mentioned that at the beginning.

Q. I thought you said that was the price the year round.—A. No sir, that was the spring and summer price. In the fall the prices go up gradually. They might begin at one cent, then go up to a cent and a quarter, then to a cent and a half, and on haddock to two cents. That was at the close of the last fishing dates. Last summer they got one cent per pound, and a cent and a quarter for steak cod. We might consider that an improvement over summer conditions.