

province of Quebec makes the situation perhaps somewhat difficult, but nevertheless we will do our utmost to help the provincial authorities with a view to ameliorating the situation in the interests of the fisheries of that province.

Mr. BRADETTE: I certainly do not feel like making any apology for saying a few words about the fisheries of the central part of Canada after all that we have heard about the fisheries of the maritime provinces, of Quebec and of British Columbia. It may surprise some hon. members to know that there are deep sea fish in the waters of Hudson bay and James bay. The hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon) accused me of not knowing anything about fish. I may not know as much about fish as he does, but nevertheless I believe that the report that was made in 1930 on the fisheries of Hudson bay is not a fair report. I protested against it last year to the then Minister of Marine, and he promised that a further inquiry would be made when a proper base for operations was established. There is now no longer any need for delay, for Fort Churchill can be used as a base for fishing operations during the whole summer. I believe that in what I am going to say on this matter I shall have the backing, as I had last year, of the hon. member for Nelson (Mr. Stitt). We who live in northern Ontario or northern Quebec or northern Manitoba know that there are not only fresh water fish in the river estuaries but also salt water fish in the waters of the Hudson bay and James bay. Last year the Minister of Railways told me that he was willing and ready to cover with gold any deep sea fish that would be caught in the Hudson bay waters, and I believe that I am going to be a wealthy man, Mr. Chairman, because now we have positive proof that there exist in the Hudson bay and James bay deep sea fish. I quote from the Ottawa Morning Journal of September 12, 1931, a Canadian Press despatch by direct wire:

The Pas, Man., Sept. 11.—There is a great future for the fishing industry in Hudson bay, in the opinion of John Ingebrechtson, who with a crew of eight men sailed a 30-foot fishing smack over Canada's inland sea this summer.

Four samples of commercial fish taken by net from the waters of the bay have been forwarded here by the experienced fishman together with a letter telling of his experiences. The most prolific species of fish encountered, he wrote, is a pink salmon of fine quality. His men hauled in several hundred pounds of salmon in one fishing field far north of Churchill, and there was apparently no limit to the quantity there.

The nine men left The Pas on May 27, with their small craft, which was launched at [Mr. Duranleau.]

Churchill early in June. The crew spent three months on the bay testing various fields. For the most part their efforts were confined to waters north and northeast of Churchill, and they did not visit the southerly portion.

The first profitable field was found two hundred miles north of Churchill, where salmon ranged two and a half to three feet in length.

I commended the government for appropriating in 1930 a certain amount of money for making an inquiry into the fisheries in Hudson bay. I criticized the report that was made of the operations then conducted and the very small amount of time that was spent in fishing operations. I am going to quote one paragraph of that report. It is entitled: "A preliminary report of the investigations of the Hudson bay and strait fisheries expedition of 1930 by H. B. Hachey, officer in charge." Speaking of the time spent in actual fishing operations the report says:

The record of fishing operations furnishes the particulars of the actual fishing done. Hand lines were used at several points for seven hours and fifteen minutes.

Seven hours and fifteen minutes to cover an area of seven hundred square miles of salt water! The report continues:

Drift-bets were used for twelve hours. Long lines were used for two hours and fifty-five minutes, and trawling operations were carried on for fifty-seven hours and fifty minutes. As a result of the total work covering the whole of Hudson bay not a single commercial fish was taken.

I objected to that report last year, as did my hon. friend from Nelson because it would be absolutely impossible in that length of time to discover the actual situation in Hudson bay. I appreciated the promise of the Minister of Railways last year that other parties would be sent to find out what was the actual situation in Hudson bay with regard to fish. I have in my hand a clipping from the Kapuskasing Tribune of last year to the effect that aeroplanes were heading for James bay, and later on they landed at Moose Factory, where fisheries were going to be developed. The despatch goes on:

During the first week of April a second plane visited Moose, this time alighting on the Moose harbour side. It brought in a party of the Moose River Fishing Syndicate, who have established themselves at this point.

Last fall in speaking of this matter with some of the officials in Cochrane and North Bay the mining engineer of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railway told me that there was a report in the hands of the federal government with reference to certain investigations that had taken place in years past with regard to the fisheries in the Hudson bay, and after making inquiry I received a copy of this