

and so save his profits, to the benefit of the consumer.

Avoidable waste occurring, owing to lack of proper facilities in most retail markets for preserving and attractively displaying the fish, should be overcome. For not only does it add to the cost of the fish to the consumer, but nothing is more liable to discourage its general use than careless methods of handling; while to obtain good, fresh fish from retail dealers under such conditions, is impossible.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries, which for many years has been expending large sums in protecting the fisheries of sea and lake, should now, I think, go a step farther. In every important community they might establish, or exhibit for demonstration purposes, a model fish market. This might consist of what is known as a silent salesman, or glass case, with proper refrigeration. In a short time progressive fish dealers would, no doubt, properly equip their premises. A vigorous campaign should be set on foot for promoting the consumption of sea foods, not on fast days only, as chiefly heretofore, but as a stable article of diet throughout the year.

A demonstration kitchen, conducted by one who understands how fish should be cooked and served, should be made a feature at all fairs in Canada. The department might very easily keep this service up the year round in those centres where it would do the most good, until the blessings of a fish diet were known.

It should be borne in mind that the increased consumption of fish will aid in solving some features of the transportation problem. When fresh fish can be shipped in carload lots, the rates will be much less, tending to reduce the cost of the fish to the consumer. In this good work an important section of the press of Canada has already rendered signal service, and is entitled to the thanks, both of the fishing interests and the consumers. With their continued co-operation advantageous results can, I believe, be attained. With this introduction I beg leave to move the resolution standing in my name.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): Mr. Speaker, the subject of which my hon. friend from Digby (Mr. Jameson) has been speaking is one of very great interest to my constituents, and I am very much pleased that he has brought it before the House. I do not know of any branch of business that could be promoted to a

greater degree by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, than that of our fisheries, by the adoption of such measures as will increase the sale of fresh fish throughout Eastern Canada; I am not so familiar with the trade of the West.

The slight assistance that was given a few years ago has given splendid results. Prior to ten or twelve years ago, a large part of the fresh fish consumed in Montreal, Toronto, and other Canadian cities came from Gloucester in the United States. Our Nova Scotia fishermen worked on these Gloucester vessels, which caught the fish off our own coast and then took it to Gloucester, whence it was returned to Montreal and Toronto. This was a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, and the Government of that day introduced the policy of subsidizing the transportation of fish from the eastern coast of Canada to the big cities inland, by paying one-third of the express rates. The trade immediately

5 p.m. changed. Instead of the inland cities of Canada buying their fish from Gloucester and Boston, they bought from Eastern Canada, with the result, that at present only a relatively small quantity of fresh fish is imported into this country.

I agree with my hon. friend that fish as an article of food is not as much used in this country as it should be, and I think a good deal could be done by advertising to increase its consumption. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in advertising our fish, at the last Toronto Exhibition took a step in the right direction, and I commend him for so doing. If it were known throughout the towns of Ontario that the fresh fish of Nova Scotia was such delicious food, that we had plenty of it in Eastern Canada, and that it could be bought cheaply. I have no doubt that much more fish would be purchased and used in our homes. While referring to this matter I never could understand why the fisheries should be put under the Naval Department, and I must say that the House and the country have never yet been given an intelligent reason as to why this was done. I had hoped that the fisheries of this country would grow to such an extent as to occupy a minister most of his time, but instead of that, the Fisheries Department has been placed under the control of certain naval officers who have nothing whatever to do

[Mr. Jameson.]