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**What Canada Is Doing
For Her Fisheries**

Speech of Hon. J. D. Hazen, Canadian Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Delivered at St. John, N. B. Nov. 7-

(Fredericton Daily Gleaner)
 It may be here well to briefly touch on some of the things my department is doing to aid in the development of our fisheries.

The remoteness of our larger centres of consumption, such as Montreal and Toronto, from the seacoast has already been pointed out. It is also a fact that these centres are considerably nearer American than Canadian ports. This condition, coupled with the fact that before the department intervened, owing to the small shipments offering, the Canadian railways did not find it feasible to place proper facilities at the disposal of the shippers, and that the express rates were high—being \$1.50 from Halifax or Mulgrave to Montreal, as compared with 80c. per 100 lbs. from Portland—resulted in these markets being largely supplied from United States sources, and in some instances with fish that had first been exported to that country. All this has been changed, largely on account of the transportation facilities made available to the dealers. By arrangement with my department, the following special facilities are now available:—

1. A refrigerator fast freight service between Mulgrave and Halifax and Montreal, three days per week.
2. My department pays one-third of the express charges on l.c.l. shipments from the Atlantic coast to points in Quebec and Ontario, and from the Pacific coast as far east as the eastern boundary of Manitoba.
3. A limited express refrigerator service one day each week between Mulgrave and Halifax and Montreal.

With these facilities and rates not only has outside competition been more than successfully met, but there has been a rapid expansion of the markets, until now the business in fresh and mildly cured fish is one of serious importance to the railways. How the business is developing will be appreciated from the following: In 1909-10—the first full year the payment of one-third of the l.c.l. express charges was in operation, the department's share on shipments from the Atlantic coast amounted to \$15,162 and on shipments from the Pacific coast to \$13,541. In 1915-16 the amounts paid had increased to \$27,122 and \$34,872 respectively.

These payments indicate but a small part of the total business done, as in addition to the l.c.l. shipments, every week several carloads of halibut and salmon are now shipped from the Pacific to Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal, and the fast freight service from the Atlantic coast has so developed that shipments for the Friday markets are now forwarded almost entirely by it, involving the forwarding of from one to three carloads per week while during the winter, the large quantities of frozen fish that are used throughout the country are usually forwarded by ordinary freight. Indeed, the business is growing so rapidly that the time is not far distant when it will be big enough to take care of itself.

This general development of the demand throughout the country, is naturally reflecting itself on the fishing industry itself. The fishermen are becoming more alive to their opportunities, and newer and better methods of operations are being adopted. As an illustration it may be pointed out that it is only a few years since motor boats began to be used in the fishery. Now there are more than 11,000 in use.

Herring Fishery and Possibilities.

While the herring that abound along our coasts are the equal of those caught anywhere, owing to inferior methods of curing and packing, and the use of cheap, shabby barrels, the demand for them has been small. Notwithstanding our proximity to the United States, the pickled herring markets of that country, and to an important extent, those of Canada, have been largely supplied from Europe. Hence, our fishery has not been prosecuted with any energy. Instead of following the schools of fish out into deep water, and capturing them when they are in the best condition, their capture has been limited to the time when they come inshore to spawn, and when they are in inferior condition. Before the war, while our best large split herring were selling in New York for from \$6 to \$7 per barrel, Scotch "Large-Full" herring were bringing from \$12 to \$15.

To remedy this state of affairs, the Fish Inspection Act was adopted two years ago. It came into operation on May 1st last year. Its aim is to bring into use strong, well made barrels of a standard size, and to raise the standard of curing and grading the

fish, so that the finished article will command the confidence of dealers and consumers, and so secure the highest ruling prices. In brief, to bring our pickled fish industry up to the standard of excellence and importance of that of Europe. Our geographical position should make it impossible for supplies from Europe successfully competing with us in the markets of this continent. If we do not secure these markets, it will be on account of the failure of our fishermen and packers to carry out their operations in accordance with improved methods. Every effort is being made to impress this fact on them, and every reasonable assistance is being given them towards the production of a perfect article. A staff of competent inspectors have been appointed, whose duty it is not only to inspect all packages submitted to them and to brand such as in accordance with the regulations free of charge, but to act as instructors to the packers and coopers as well.

These efforts are meeting with marked success. Last year, the initial one of the operation of the act, 1,328 barrels were presented for inspection, of which 1,211 were branded, and this year, to the end of last month, 5,307 barrels of herring, alewives and mackerel were presented for inspection, of which 4,441 received the brand. Sixty different packers put up goods for the brand this year, and many others received instructions from the inspectors and put up their fish in accordance with the regulations, thus producing a better and a higher priced article, though they did not receive the brand. Thirty packers, after receiving full instructions from the inspectors, put up herring according to the Scotch method this season, and about 5,000 barrels of herring were put in this style, about half of which were branded.

At the present time Canadian Scotch cured branded herring are selling in New York at from \$13 to \$16 per barrel, while our unbranded large split herring are bringing but from \$8 to \$8.50 per barrel. These facts should in themselves be a sufficient argument to our packers in favor of adopting the improved methods.

With a view to endeavoring to investigate schools of herring offshore in the Atlantic, my department last season fitted up a steam herring drifter and kept her prospecting throughout the season. While such a task for one boat is a difficult one, and no great results could be expected in one short season, a reasonable amount of success was met with, and much valuable information was secured concerning the size and quality of the fish on different grounds worked. A detailed report of the quantity and quality of fish caught on the different grounds is being prepared for general

distribution for the guidance of those interested in the industry. As once the off-shore schools of herring are located the quantities that can be caught will for all practical purposes be limitless. The value that this fishery alone may become will be realized from the fact that in normal times the herring fishing of the British Isles is worth from \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 annually, upwards of two-thirds of the present value of all our fisheries.

Great Food For Our Soldiers At The Front.

Added interest has been directed to the fisheries by the fact that they are forming such an important portion of the food of our soldiers, not only in the different camps in Canada, but overseas as well. During the past summer about 300,000 lbs. of fish per month have been forwarded to Great Britain for the use of our soldiers, and such have been received with so much satisfaction by them that the Imperial authorities have decided to try supplying fish to the British troops. To that end it has already ordered over one million pounds of frozen fish from Canada, which are now being got ready for shipment. There is every reason to anticipate that the experiment will prove successful, and that during the coming summer, when our fisheries will be in full swing, large quantities will be continuously needed for the British troops.

Fisheries Exhibit at Toronto, Ont.

During the past four years a thoroughly representative fisheries exhibit has been given at the Toronto Exhibition. A fisheries restaurant has been operated as an adjunct to the exhibit during the past two years. Both have been highly successful, and have admittedly done much to expand the demand for fish in our interior centres. The exhibit has each year been one of the most attractive features at the Fair, and has been awarded a gold medal on each occasion. Last year over 25,000 fish dinners were served at the restaurant, and this year over 35,000.

Also an attractive booklet, entitled "Fish and How to Cook It," containing comprehensive information regarding fish, and numerous recipes for cooking in a dainty and inexpensive way, has been issued and distributed freely throughout the country. The demand for this booklet has been quite extraordinary, and it is undoubtedly doing much to expand the demand for fish.

Indeed the time has already come when the problem of the producers has been changed from one of finding a market for their fish to one of supplying the ever growing demand. The need for increased production in our fisheries is therefore paramount, and it is hoped that the fishermen who have found it impossible to undertake military services will do their full part, by exercising every energy to make the harvest of the sea one of ever increasing abundance.

THE SOUL OF THE NATION

It would be interesting to know what the Bishop of Worcester, Eng., means when he says that the British people do not longer wish to be associated with the word "empire," but prefer to talk of the British "brotherhood" and the British "commonwealth." Does the bishop merely desire a change in the form of the term descriptive of the present aggregation of peoples comprising the empire or does he favor such social changes as will render the present term untrue in large degree? The terms "brotherhood" and "commonwealth" are not lightly to be assumed in a national sense.

If the bishop is in favor of radical changes which will make the terms he suggests more accurate than the term we now employ to describe the British system, it would seem that he could do much to bring these about by advocating the fundamentals of brotherhood and social as well as political reforms affecting the great mass of the people. To assume the titles the bishop favors, without right or title to them in fact or intention, would seem to be hypocrisy.

It is the duty of the thinkers of Britain to consider the changes that will follow the war in the empire. If these leaders, social, political and religious, bend their energies unselfishly and sincerely to the task the old order of things will be changed and a new era dawn for the empire and for civilization, in which the British people claim to be pioneers. The war and the consequences of the struggle have shown the artificiality and the injustice of institutions long regarded as typical of the British character. The soul of the nation has been dissected and a regenerated people awaits calling into life. It is the great privilege of the leaders to develop the new nationalism of the British people. Names are immaterial—the work is the thing, and by the results will the nation be judged. The Bishop of Worcester has the right view.—Ottawa Citizen.

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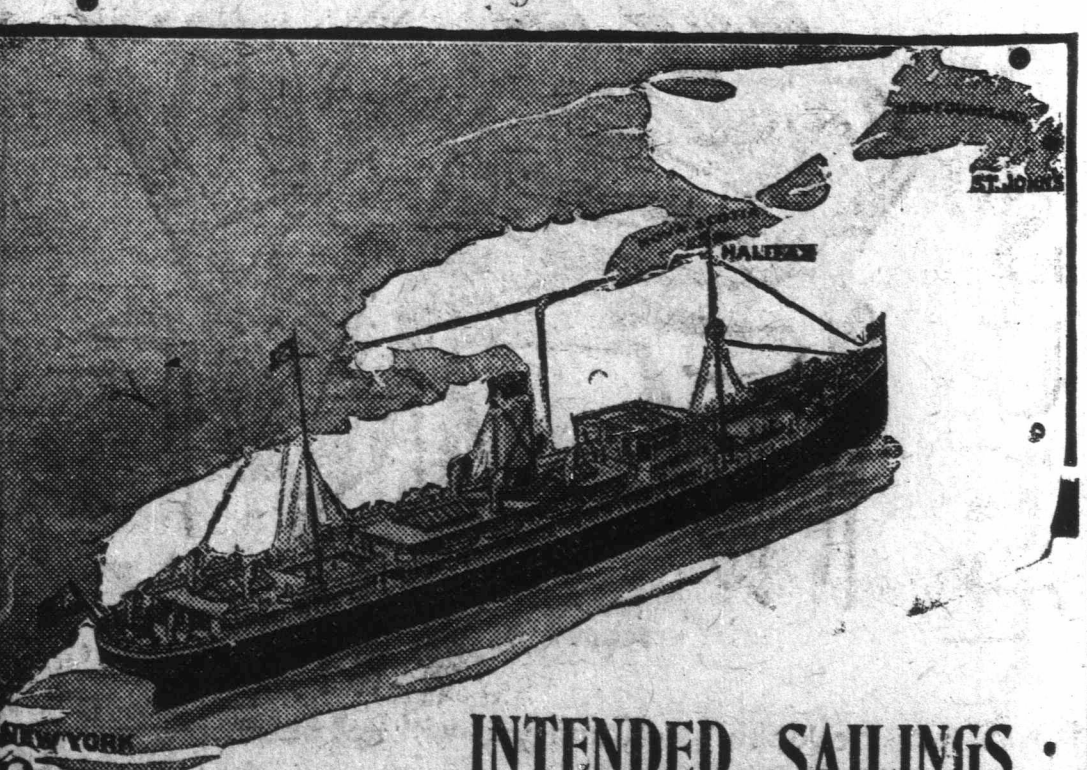
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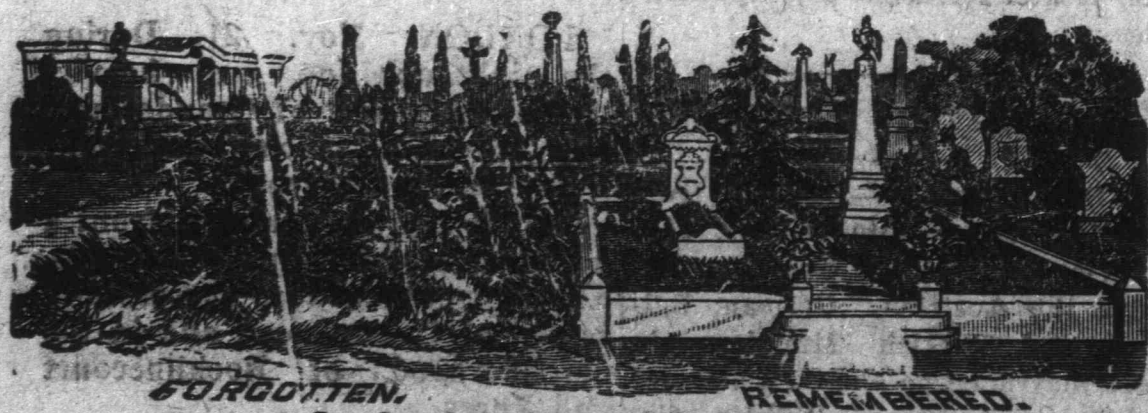
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