

Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond-West Cape Breton): Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: There are other matters in it.

Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond-West Cape Breton): Yes, but it refers largely to aids for fishing.

The CHAIRMAN: Read the clauses having regard to fishing.

Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond-West Cape Breton): (Reading):

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES APPOINTED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF RICHMOND COUNTY

JANUARY SESSION, 1929.

To the Warden and Council:

GENTLEMEN,—Having been honoured by your honourable body to draft suitable resolutions in regard to our fisheries, we beg to report as follows:—

1. As a foreword we beg to stress the importance of the fisheries to the County of Richmond being our chief industry with an annual value of not less than \$300,000.

2. As a result of poor prices prevailing after the late war, due in part to a falling off in the demand for the commodity, and in part to the fallen exchanges in the currencies of continental Europe and South America, but largely in our opinion to lack of proper transportation facilities as well as advertising that would enable our people to learn of the food value of this commodity as well as place it upon the tables of the mass of consumers in the great cities of eastern and western Canada, there has been a general decline in the industry, and a consequent exodus of these hardy toilers of the deep to the United States.

In order to stem this rising tide, and restore peace and contentment in fishing communities we recommend:—

1. That the Report of the Royal Commission on Fisheries be implemented by the Federal Government to the fullest extent.

2. That during the spawning season the cod and haddock be protected from the depredations of steam-tractors. An effort should be made to control their activities by international treaties.

3. That better railway facilities should be granted to Richmond County. The line of railway to St. Peter's should be extended to Louisburg, and a branch constructed on Isle Madame terminating at Petit de Grat. We solicit the co-operation of Canso in this respect as with steamboat connection with Petit de Grat the fishermen of that place would be but ten miles from the railway centre instead of thirty as at present.

4. We urge that our water transportation service be immediately improved, as at present our fishermen have to depend on this solely for export. Freight rates should be lowered, ample subsidies should be provided so that better and faster boats can be placed on the routes.

5. The harbours of Petit de Grat, L'Ardoise, Grand River and Fourchu should be dredged at once thus enabling the fishermen of those places to ply their avocation, which they are now attempting to do at the risk of their lives and property. We cannot urge this upon the federal government too strongly.

6. Immediate attention should be given by the government to the cultivation of the oyster and scallop industry in Richmond which promises to be a source of revenue to our county.

[Rev. Father Alfred Boudreau.]