

Preserved in any of the ways just mentioned, fish will remain in good condition for a long time. Consequently the fisherman who thus cures his fish, and the merchant who is engaged in handling this class of trade, are not absolutely dependent on an immediate market.

It is in the transportation and disposal of fresh fish that the greatest necessity arises for promptitude and care. It may be frozen and thus prevented from decomposition. But food of any kind of necessity loses much of its fine flavour when subjected to cold-storage treatment. A measure of cooling by ice will preserve fish for some time, sufficiently long to be transported from the coast to our inland cities, if prompt methods of transportation are afforded. The Government has done much by way of assistance to transportation. Perhaps more can be done. Perhaps suggestions can be made for better methods of distribution which will commend themselves to the committee to which this matter is to be referred. I know the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen) is sympathetic; and I believe the Government is willing to lend an ear to any suggestion that may be offered, and to go as far as is reasonable in the way of assisting in the development of what ought to be a big trade in this country.

What we want to do is to bring the hand of the hardy fisherman of our coast as close as possible to the mouth of the hungry citizen of the central portions of Canada—to reduce to a minimum all necessary charges in transportation and exchange, and to wipe out all those which are unnecessary—to give to the producer all that is coming to him for his labour, and to the consumer all that is coming to him for his money. This, I take it, is the object and purpose of the resolution, and I have much pleasure in giving it my support.

Mr. B. B. LAW, (Yarmouth): I have been very sorry to notice during the years I have had the privilege of sitting in this House, that when our fishing industry is being discussed, very few members stay in the chamber. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that that fact does not account for the lack of brains shown in some discussions which take place in this House. I am very much interested in the matter which has been brought before the House by the hon. member for Digby (Mr. Jameson). It would have been well if, when the question of wider markets was before this country in

1911, the hon. members for Digby, Shelburne and Queens and Lunenburg had exerted their influence to help to give the people the benefit of reciprocity.

We are at all times assisting the farmer, doing things for him, which, I have no hesitation in saying, are quite right, but very little has been done for the hardy, sturdy fisherman. We have in the county of Yarmouth a large number of fishermen. I have the honour of representing one of the largest constituencies in that line that, I presume, there is in the province of Nova Scotia. I just happened to-day to have some figures, not for this debate at all, of the imports and exports through the port of Yarmouth during the calendar year 1915. The total imports into the port of Yarmouth were \$774,211 and the exports \$2,141,389, which certainly shows that we have the trade balance on the right side as far as Yarmouth and the western counties are concerned. Our exports largely consist of fish and I would like to place on Hansard the following figures:

Exports.

Codfish, fresh, dried, pickled.. . . .	\$570,204
Mackerel, fresh, pickled	157,119
Halibut, fresh.. . . .	47,416
Herring, pickled, smoked.. . . .	42,112
Sea fish, other, fresh, preserved	90,671
Lobsters, fresh, canned.. . . .	705,271
Salmon, fresh.. . . .	27,053
Cod fish oil.. . . .	8,525
Tongues and sounds.. . . .	19,740

Making a grand total of exports of fish and fish products from the port of Yarmouth during the past year of \$1,668,111, or one-quarter of the total exports of fish from the province of Nova Scotia. I cannot understand why the present Government, and hon. members supporting it, are so much afraid of the American market from the fisherman of western Nova Scotia, from seventy-five to ninety per cent of them would have to go out of business. We, who are situated in the western part of Nova Scotia, particularly at the port of Yarmouth, have a daily line of boats in the summer time to Boston which is the best fish market on the North American continent. Our fishermen are able to obtain the highest market price for their fish there and if reciprocity had carried in 1911, as, to my mind, it should have, all our fishermen would now be getting better prices to-day than they are getting. A large part of the exports of fish from Yarmouth consists of boneless codfish and