

second, long term loans to fishermen, and steam trawlers. They consider these matters of extra importance. They say that unless these questions are settled satisfactorily, they will never be settled, no matter how much legislation you pass.

The CHAIRMAN: It seems to me that it is impossible for us to deal with a matter of such grave importance at this meeting. We are all interested. I suggest that we read the report of the Commission and then come before the Committee at a later date and give our views. If that is satisfactory, we will go on to something else.

*By Mr. Garland (Bow River):*

Q. There is one question I would like to have cleared up. When I was in Canso last June, I found complaints circulating there by fishermen as to their treatment by some of these fish corporations. If a man wants to buy bait, he has nowhere else to go but to the fish corporations for their bait and it was being sold then at a rate of seven cents per pound, frozen bait. Suppose by any chance he had sold his fish to somebody else—for instance, to a private dealer from Boston. The fishermen tell me they were refused bait by the fish corporation, the only place where they could get it. Do you know whether that is true or not?—A. That is perfectly true, and the same thing obtains everywhere. You cannot get bait from the fishing concern unless you sell your fish to that concern. If you are not pleased with that concern, and can get more for your fish from somebody else, you cannot get bait from that particular concern.

Q. You always have to sell your fish at the price set by the corporation?—A. Of course we do.

Q. Without regard to the market price?—A. We have to take the price they offer, that is all. We have no say in it at all. Last fall the Canso fellows had to import bait from the States, and had to pay six cents for it, and the fish they caught from that bait they could only sell for three cents. I was in Canso last summer; the fishermen's Union had a meeting one night and they were talking pretty loud. There is a cold storage plant there that had some bait in it which the fishermen could not get, and they were talking about going down and taking it. I told them they had better be careful. But just the same the situation is rather peculiar when there is bait there and they cannot get it, and they have to sell their fish to the company from whom they get the bait, no matter what the price is, or they cannot get any more bait. The same thing obtains all along the coast. There is a crying need for bait freezers all along the coast.

*By Mr. MacLean (Prince):*

Q. Coming back to that question of the destruction of their fish: there is a closed season for lobsters. Have you any information as to whether or not these trawlers destroy lobsters, or do they take in lobsters or fish which are prohibited in certain closed seasons.—A. I never heard a fisherman say he brought up any lobsters from the bottom. They scrape up anything that is on the bottom; they cannot escape. If there are lobsters there, they get them.

Mr. SHORT: The trawlers usually do not fish on the ground where the lobsters are.

Mr. MACDONALD (Richmond-West Cape Breton) They fish any place they can. I have seen them myself fishing in the Straits of Canso where it is only a mile or two wide.

Mr. Chairman, I have here a resolution from the report of the Special Committee on Fisheries appointed by the Municipal Council of Richmond County.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that the resolution from the Municipal Clerk?