

a healthy economic condition in the state. Let me continue with the reference the report makes to this board, which I submit is quite appropriate at this time. They recommend further:

Through successive steps the board might then proceed to action in connection with disabilities of the industry in something approaching the following order:

(1) The elimination of misrepresentation of varieties and grades of fish as now prevailing in the retail markets in Canada.

I pause there to interject what I said a moment ago. One of the difficulties in the interior part of Canada, particularly in the densely populated parts of old Ontario, is the lack of accurate information as to the varieties and uses of fish. The minister and his predecessor have done a good deal to improve this condition. Lately we have had a number of broadcasts by some charming lady whose name I have forgotten. All this is useful work, but it merely touches the surface. I continue:

(2) The establishment of a higher standard of quality of fish marketed in Canada by regulating the conditions under which fish, and especially fresh fish, may be handled.

There is a long story there which might be elaborated.

(3) The establishment of adequate inspection of grades as affecting products for the Canadian and export markets.

(4) The elimination of consignment shipments.

This is something which might very well engage the attention of the government.

(5) The elimination of cut-throat competition and other unsound trade practices.

This could be done by making the trade and industry commission a functioning body. In saying that, I do not intend to reflect upon the late Mr. Justice Sedgewick. During his excellent administration his time was fully occupied with the tariff board; the trade and industry commission was a mere incident. It has never been given the consideration or support which it deserved. Such matters as I have mentioned ought to be referred to the suggested board for its consideration and finding—the elimination of cut-throat competition and other unsound practices; the direction of surplus production of fish through channels calculated to bring the most profitable financial return. Let me say this in connection with the export business, whether in fish or in any other product. It is possible that with the growing control of markets the world over, the nation as a whole will be forced to take some part in the export of certain of our primary products. I shall not go

further into that at the moment. There is this other question which ought to be referred to the board: a thorough survey of conditions surrounding, as well as the disabilities retarding, development of existing and potential export markets.

These are some of the suggestions that were made. I do not see why such a board as that recommended by the price spreads commission has not been set up before this. Even though there may be a question of jurisdiction, such a board could in my opinion, through the effect of publicity alone, as I have said in this house before in regard to other matters of the kind, where jurisdiction is in question, do a great deal of good.

Let me come back to the immediate issue before us, namely, whether or not within three days to issue licences for these trawlers. I suggest to the minister that for this year we give the fishermen a break. Let us have the corporation do the suffering, if there is to be any suffering, refuse the licences for the trawlers this year, and see what happens. The suggestion is made that if the licences are refused, there will not be a supply of fish. Very well; let us prove it. Why should we always make the fisherman the goat? Why must we always do nothing for fear of interfering with some large corporation operating trawlers, for fear that they might peradventure suffer, on the other hand ignoring the interests and repeated requests of the fishermen? Let us this year reverse the process and refuse the licences for the trawlers. Let us give a test to this request which the fishermen have made, and see if we cannot improve their conditions. At the end of the year, if we see that we have actually improved the conditions of the fishermen, and if there should be some loss or alleged or supposed loss on the part of the corporation, it will be a question of balancing advantages and disadvantages.

Mr. MICHAUD: But what if the loss is on the other side? What if the hook and line fishermen lose?

Mr. STEVENS: As a result of cancellation of the licences?

Mr. MICHAUD: Yes.

Mr. STEVENS: The only way that loss could come about—and here I warn the minister—would be through a deliberate and intentional effort on the part of the corporations that are buying these fish to penalize the fishermen.

Mr. MICHAUD: But the damage would be there, nevertheless.