

Fortunately for our company they have left the management of affairs very largely to my firm. I say, fortunately—

The CHAIRMAN: If you will excuse me, gentlemen, I have to attend a very important meeting. Just go ahead and give all the evidence that you have to give, and these gentlemen will ask some questions, and I will read the evidence afterwards.

Mr. PUTNAM: Perhaps wrongly, I understood the witness to mean that it was a handicap for a great many companies doing business in Canada that their directors were in London.

The WITNESS: I think in a general way, most gentlemen will agree with me there.

Mr. PUTNAM: If so, it has probably something to do with many losses that you complain of in the fishing industry.

The WITNESS: There are very few concerns indeed who are so represented, but, as I say, the management of this business had been left to our firm very largely.

(The CHAIRMAN at this point left the Committee Room, and his place was taken by Mr. STORK.)

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I hope the remainder of the Committee will stay here; otherwise the Committee will have to close down.

The WITNESS: There are one or two points that I think are worth while to bring before this Committee.

*By Mr. McQuarrie:*

Q. With regard to the embargo?—A. With regard to the embargo, I am strongly in favour of such an embargo being put on. It did exist in former years.

Q. Your proposal in regard to the embargo is that it is better for the country to allow the canners on this side of the line to can their fish than it is to allow Americans to come in and pay our fishermen higher prices for the fish than our cannerymen would do?—A. I think it is in the interests of the public of the Dominion of Canada that the fish should be processed and manufactured in Canada.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. Is it within your knowledge that the canneries who adhered to that principle themselves—if I were to tell you that the Wallace Fisheries shipped out fresh fish when they got the chance, to the American side, despite the fact of the howl they put up about an embargo, would you believe it?—A. Well, I would believe anything the Wallace Fisheries would tell me; I have great respect for their manager. I want to point out a remark on page 25 of the report with regard to the restriction on canneries. It says: "That under the Fishery Regulations of 1908 it became necessary to obtain, from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries a license before operations could be undertaken, and it was set forth that no additional canneries would be licensed in the Northern District of British Columbia." I am going back to a subject that I covered before, but I do not think that I covered that.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I think the report should be filed.

The WITNESS: I think every gentleman on the Committee should have a copy of it. It is the most exhaustive and best report on the fisheries that has ever been made. It says, "The Government of British Columbia and its Fishery Department had for years advocated restriction." Now, I am not alone, you see, with regard to the restriction. It says, "The Government of British Columbia had advocated restriction." Mr. Bowser, when he was in charge passed that Act, and in 1908 passed a Canners Revenue Act which provides—and this is important: "It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a cannery in this Province unless and until such person shall have been duly licensed under this Act and shall have paid the license fee and obtained the license hereinafter provided." That was for the express purpose of limitation. "We

[Mr. H. Bell Irving.]