

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

COMMITTEE ROOM 425,

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

THURSDAY, May 23, 1929.

The Select Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries met at 11 o'clock a.m., Mr. Duff, the Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Committee were present: Messieurs Beaubien, Bissett, Blanchard, Bourgeois, Brady, Dickie, Duff, Dussault, Jenkins, MacDonald (Cape Breton South), Macdonald (Richmond West Cape Breton), MacLean (Prince), McQuarrie, McRae, Morrissy, Neill, Quinn, Short, Sinclair (Queens)—19.

The Chairman declared the meeting open, and explained that the Committee had been called together to consider the matter referred to the Committee in connection with the Convention of the United States and Canada for the protection, preservation and extension of the Sockeye Salmon fisheries in the Fraser River system.

Mr. W. A. Found, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, being in attendance, was requested by the Committee to make a statement giving a resume of the events prior to and leading up to the signing of the Convention now referred to the Committee for consideration, with reference also to the conditions surrounding the salmon fishing industry of the Fraser River and other waters adjacent thereto, in which the United States and Canada were mutually interested.

Mr. Found addressed the meeting, and during the period of his remarks answered many questions by members of the Committee. A map, supplied for the purpose, was used to explain conditions and the habits of salmon during the period of their growth and their final return to their native spawning areas. (see evidence).

Mr. McQuarrie thought that the Committee should have had some knowledge before the final action was taken in regard to the Treaty. He read a motion which he moved before the Committee on June 17th, 1926, in which he made strong representations that the Government should take such action.

Considerable discussion arose in this connection, and also in connection with a meeting held in the City of Vancouver last winter, at which the Deputy Minister met with fishery organizations of British Columbia, and Mr. McQuarrie claimed that the Members of Parliament had not been sufficiently apprised and in consequence were not present for the most part.

Mr. McRae stated that he desired to register his complaint before the Committee. He had spoken strongly on the matter in 1927, at a meeting of the Committee on March 28th, of that year, and thought it was understood then that an opportunity was to be given to discuss the Treaty before it was signed.