

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: But I am trying to bring information before this Committee, and the Deputy, with all due respect, seems to be trying to brush away the information as fast as I can give it. I quote his own report—a most encouraging report—but what happens? He says, “What of it?”

Mr. FOUND: I say what of it as far as it concerns the matter of rehabilitating the Fraser river run of sockeye.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: It concerns the excuse made for this treaty, that the fishery has become largely non-existent, and that therefore we must call in a delegation from the United States to help us in our cultural operations. I do not think that is necessary or called for, and I say the ground on which that is urged has totally disappeared by reason of the recent experience of the return of a satisfactory fishery.

Hon. Mr. KING: Do the records show that?

The CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Found might give a short outline of the conditions at present, and state what is the likelihood of building up the salmon on the Fraser river under this convention.

Mr. FOUND: Under this convention?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, by this convention.

Mr. FOUND: Yes, sir. Under the existing condition the fish coming in from the ocean and going back to the Fraser river to reproduce, largely and first—that is, first, after they pass the southwestern end of Vancouver Island—pass through United States waters where we have no control and where, throughout the years, since the fishery has become large, the greater percentage of the catch has taken place. Unless we can get a fair escapement from that area, if we are to build up that fishery we must do it at the expense of our own fishermen with the fish that have been allowed to escape beyond that area. Now the question has been raised, and by the Fraser river fishermen themselves, time and again, that if the United States are not prepared to do something to help us build up the fishery for all concerned, why not let us take the other course and finish the run in the Fraser river, which we could do, and in comparatively few years settle the whole question by catching all the fish that were allowed to escape beyond the United States boundary.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: You don't mean that any fisherman has suggested that.

Mr. FOUND: It has been suggested at public meetings held by fishermen in New Westminster on more than one occasion.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: Not by fishermen.

Mr. FOUND: Fishermen's associations.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: By foolish governments that have gone out of office.

Mr. FOUND: I am speaking of meetings I have had with fishermen there, that have always been very satisfactory as a whole.

As I said before, it was realized as far back as 1905, when a big year was still a big year, that the situation was an unfortunate one and should be amended as the off years were playing out. And from that time on negotiations have taken place. It would take me a little time to go over them. Two treaties were signed between Canada and the United States, one in 1908 and one in 1919, for the rehabilitation of the Fraser river, apart altogether from the treaty of 1929 and the subsequent one of 1930, which modified it. If I have failed to make my position clear, I am sorry. I have not tried to be hostile and I hope the committee have not felt that I was hostile; but when statements are made that seem to reflect directly on the department, and on a certain officer in the department, I have tried, as I thought the committee wished me to do, to place clearly before the committee what I saw to be the facts.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it is just a difference of opinion on the matter. The senator thinks the fish are coming back entirely without any assistance from the convention.