explorers record it, and quote the Indians as saying it had always existed. It has been a characteristic peculiar to the Fraser and unknown in any other river. Up to 1917 the Fraser River District produced more sockeye every fourth year than the combined catches made in Alaskan waters during all but one of those years, as the following statement shows:—

THE SOCKEYE-SALMON PACK OF THE FRASER RIVER SYSTEM AND IN ALASKA.

Year.	Alaska	Fraser River System.
	Cases.	Cases.
1901	1,319,335	2,033,765
1905	1,574,428	1,684,611
1909	1,705,302	1,590,555
1917	2,484,881	559,702

(5.) The sockeye-salmon runs to the Fraser River system in the big years has been alarmingly depleted, and the runs in the small years are no longer of commercial importance. Both are threatened with extinction.

Complete records exist of conditions on both the fishing and the spawning grounds of the Fraser system since 1900. The record of the pack shows the catch, because the entire catch is marketed in tins. The number of fishermen employed and the amount of gear used are also recorded. There are adequate data also for a comparison of conditions on the spawning-beds since 1900. Dr. Gilbert, in "The Sockeye Run on the Fraser River,"* says: "No other sockeye-stream has received such close and discriminating study. Annual inspection has been made of the spawning-beds of the entire watershed, and predictions of the run four years hence have been fearlessly made. It is a matter of record how consistently these prophesies have been fulfilled." The observations of conditions on the spawning-beds have been made by the same observer since 1900.

The records for the fishing-grounds show that the runs of sockeye to the Fraser River system in the big years 1901, 1905, 1909, and 1913 produced an average pack of 1,927,602 cases, and that in 1917, the last year in the cycle of big years, it produced a pack of but 559,732 cases, or 70 per cent. less than the average of the four preceding big years. The startling decrease in 1917 is due to the fact that the great spawning runs of 1913 did not reach the spawning-beds

* British Columbia Fisheries Report, 1917.