

Just vision what could happen there. A school of fish is reported from the gulf, and it comes in. It does not rush into the traps at Point Roberts and up the Fraser River at the same time. The school comes in leisurely, not quite ready at the moment to enter the fresh water of the Fraser River, and it circulates around Point Roberts. It remains there for several days, sometimes a week. The traps are open all the time, except of course during the closed season of a week. The salmon goes into the traps—often as many as 50,000 or 100,000 are caught in a big trap.

The Commission say to the trap fishermen: "You have had a week of this fishing. Now you will close your traps and take no more fish. You will let the Fraser River have the rest." By that time there is no "rest" because the fish come in in a series of rushes, lasting five or six days at a time, and then there is an interval until the next school comes along.

So to suggest that the traps may have the first week and the gill netters the next two weeks, would be absolutely absurd, for it would likely happen that during the gill netters' two weeks there would be no fish available at all.

You cannot indefinitely prolong the closed season at any cannery, because the cannery hires its help and has to pay them or they disappear. All the canneries on the Fraser River are equipped and staffed all ready for the Commission to open the fishing on the Fraser River. The same applies to those on the American side. They have all got to prepare beforehand.

You may say, "Well, it should be within the ingenuity of the Commission of six, about to be appointed, to find a way of meeting this objection." And there is a way, but it is fatal to the great majority of those who make their living out of the fishing. When my good friend Senator McRae talks about the interest of the state, it seems to me that is the interest of the common people who make up the state. I agree with him that the state has a very real interest, which it should be our first concern to protect. As I interpret that interest, my first concern is to protect our citizens who reside on the Fraser River.

The Commission have it in their power to say, "This is just too bad. Here we have a treaty entered into for 16 years, without any possibility of amending it. The treaty provides that we should share and share alike in the fish. With fishing traps on one side and gill nets on the other, we cannot do that. It is too bad that we should have to call off the gill nets, but with the 16 years ahead of us we must do that, and we must put traps on the Canadian side, if it is possible to have them there during the period of this treaty. We are sorry, but that is the best we can do."

In my opinion that is a trap laid for the people of British Columbia to induce them to accept this treaty, in the hope that they may not realize what is going to be the consequence.

The treaty goes on with great particularity to ensure to the people of the State of Washington that they will be permitted to continue the use of traps. This permission is contained in the words that, "apart from the closed seasons provided by the treaty, whenever fishing is permitted it shall be permitted with any instruments or gear permitted by the local authorities, whether provincial or state."

So that instead of trying to give our gill net fishermen some show for their money and insisting that while the treaty is in force unequal methods of taking salmon in traps must be abandoned, we expressly reserve to the trap fishermen of the State of Washington the right to use their traps whenever any fishing is permitted during the whole of the next 16 years.

It is no answer to say that the Canadian Government can allow our fishermen to use traps. That does not help our gill net fishermen, whose homes and thousands of dollars worth of small boats and nets will be utterly destroyed.

That is why I ask that this treaty should be withdrawn. It is not necessary to enter into anything controversial between one country and another. It is sufficient to say, "You have had this proposed treaty before you now for