

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. But only when the traps began did it show any drop?—A. Only when the traps began did it show any drop; there was not the heavy prosecution till that time.

Mr. BANCROFT: Mr. Chairman, has this department ever approached the United States with a view to arriving at some arrangement in that regard?

WITNESS: I will come to that in about two minutes, Mr. Bancroft. In 1913, the last big year, it happened that the C.N.R. was being built along the side of Hell's Gate. The blast from the sides of that great chasm, the substance, the material, went down into the canyon. No fisheries expert or engineer, or any man that I ever met, would have said that it was going to do any damage by looking at it, but the result was that it broke the little sheltering eddy in which the fish were able to take a rest in making that heavy passage through that channel, so that they could not do it, and very few fish got above Hell's Gate in that year. We went to work at once and made some temporary arrangements as soon as we found that they were not able to get up, and some got up; but to all intents and purposes the upper waters of the Fraser River were not restocked that year. The result was that 1917 got down to the basis of a good off year, and 1921 has been less than 1917. So that we have now, regrettably, passed the time when there is one big year in the four to hold on to in the Fraser River, and an asset which had a value of at least, from the sockeye alone, thirty million dollars to this continent, of which twelve million dollars annually should be to Canada at least, is approaching the vanishing point. Seeing that the matter could not be dealt with by Canada alone, regardless of the fact that we had all the spawning areas, the matter was taken up with the United States a number of years ago.

*By Mr. McQuarrie:*

Q. When was that, do you know?—A. It resulted in a treaty in 1908. It would be some years before that that the first negotiations began. That treaty was ratified by the United States Senate, and provided—

Q. Have you got that treaty?—A. I have not a copy with me. I will place it before the Committee. That treaty provided for the appointment of a commission to make regulations. It was our general understanding at the time that these regulations when made would come into force. It developed however, that when the regulations were made by the Commissioners they had to run in the United States the same course as the treaty itself. That is, they had to receive the approval of the United States Senate, and they failed to receive that approval, and after a number of years of trying to drive the issue Canada finally, in 1914, I think, resumed liberty of action under the treaty and dropped the matter for the time.

Q. Could you give us a general idea of the nature of those regulations?—A. I will file a copy of these regulations with the treaty. You see, the Fraser river was only a part. That was a boundary waters fisheries treaty, and as I have not looked them over I would not like to start to quote them at the moment.

Q. They would consist, I presume, of some regulations which would restrict to a certain extent the operation of traps?—A. These regulations were to bear on both sides, and were put in force by the federal governments of both sides. Let it be understood that in the States the fisheries administration comes within the states, but for treaty purposes the state rights can be superseded, and it was felt that the only way the situation there could be handled would be by the Federal Government, and to that end the treaty was made. In 1916, I think it was, or thereabouts—

Q. Just before we get away from that, the regulations, as I take it, were approved by the authorities of the state of Washington?—A. No.

Q. To start with?—A. No.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I wanted to get clear on that.

[Mr. W. A. Found]