

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 429.

February 11, 1937.

The Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries met at 11 o'clock. Mr. A. E. MacLean, the chairman, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you like to proceed, Mr. Neill?

Mr. NEILL: No. I made my statement in the house. If there is anyone here objecting to any of the statement, I would suggest that they give evidence now. I would also mention, Mr. Chairman, that I thought the reference was going to be the question of the government maintaining or permitting traps at Sooke, but I note it is extended to the larger question of permitting traps anywhere in British Columbia. That makes the question a great deal wider and very much more important.

Hon. Mr. MICHAUD: It is along the wording of the resolution, if I remember it correctly.

Mr. NEILL: Yes, but the reference was entirely, I thought, as regards present traps at Sooka, should they be continued or should they not. The minister apparently wishes the whole question of traps anywhere in British Columbia to be gone into.

Hon. Mr. MICHAUD: If I remember correctly I undertook to refer to the committee the matter which you had brought to the house by your resolution, and that is what I think I did—exactly copied the wording of the resolution.

Mr. NEILL: If you wish it extended to the greater scope, I suppose it is all right. It cannot be objected to.

Mr. REID: I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that it might be advisable if we had a statement from the deputy regarding traps or the history of them, for the benefit of the committee. I am suggesting to the minister that it might be advisable to get an outline of the trap situation before we begin to deal with it. I just leave that to the wishes of the committee.

Mr. RYAN: Was the reference read, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Just so that it may be in the record, I will read the resolution as presented in the house by Mr. Neill:—

January 14—Mr. Neill—The following proposed resolution: That, in the opinion of this house, the best interests of British Columbia would be served by the government ceasing to issue trap fishing licences in British Columbian waters.

Then the order of reference we read before, that the standing committee be empowered to enquire into matters referred to it. The motion that was referred read:—

That the question of the advisability of the government issuing trap fishing licences in British Columbia waters be referred to the standing committee on fisheries for study and report.

It does not refer to that one section, Mr. Neill.

Mr. NEILL: No. All right.

Mr. RYAN: It seems to be pretty broad.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Found, apparently they would like to hear from you.