

The Indians were told by the white men that these places no longer belonged to them, and they were not allowed to do anything on these places. They greatly desired also to have exclusive right in these places, so that they might prevent the white men coming to catch the fish. They also wanted to use the traps as their forefathers had used them on these rivers, because it was a much easier way of catching the salmon. They did not wish to use the traps long on the rivers, but only for a short time, and they asked for authority which would enable them to stop the white men fishing at these places for the canneries. The whitemen fished with large nets and they desired power to stop them doing so, because the Indians wanted to catch the fish themselves and sell them to the canneries. When the first white men came to these places and saw what the Indians were doing, putting traps in the river, they destroyed these traps and cut them up with axes and threw them away. Another trouble coming through the white man was the drinking house, which was too close to the reserve. This, they thought, should be put a stop to as it was a very bad thing - just like murdering people. Often when one drank there he would lie down drunk and die.

MR. COMMISSIONER SHAW: Are you speaking of Indians or white men?

JAMES SMITH: Some Indians and some white men as well. We don't like that drinking house being there. It is too close to us. We have to pass by it when going to the store. There is another thing which makes us all happy. It has been the custom of our forefathers and we want to hold to that.

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