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## Fishery Commission and the Salmon Situation

**Provincial Commissioner of Fisheries Advocates Closes of Salmon Fishing on Fraser River and Tributary Waters as only Solution for Reestablishing the Salmon Packing Industry and Preserving the Great Salmon Resources of this River.**

The American Canadian Fishing Commission headed by the Secretary of Commerce, Redfield of the United States and Chief Justice Hazen of Canada is charged with the purpose of settling all outstanding questions between the two Countries in regard to fish. This Commission visited the Province and held sessions at Prince Rupert, Victoria and Vancouver and also at Seattle, Washington. The uppermost question before it on the Pacific is the salmon situation on the Fraser River and in this the fishing interests of the State of Washington and the province of British Columbia have vital interests. We have the assurance from the Commission that all questions will be handled in an international way as it concerns the two countries and not in the parochial interests of the state of Washington or British Columbia alone. It is this view which makes the operation of the Commission give expression to the profound faith that legislation will be passed which will be in the interests of the entire people of both Countries and not subserve special or particular interests which has been the source of much unpleasantness and dissatisfaction in the past, and which has steadily tended to the ultimate destruction of the fishing resources of the two Countries when the fishing grounds are in close proximity to international waters.

The salmon situation on the Fraser River is incapable of being dealt with separately by either government for the reason that the fish propagate in the watershed of the Fraser River which is wholly in Canadian territory and the bulk of the catch is caught in American waters. Striving after the largest share possible by the fishermen of either country involve close competition and intense fishing which has resulted in a rapid depletion of the run of

salmon particularly of the most important commercial variety that of the sockeye.

As an important contribution to the work of the Commission the reports of the Commissioner of Fisheries for the Province of British Columbia the Hon. William Sloan and the assistant to the Commissioner, Mr. John P. Babcock are outstanding. They treat of the subject in a broad international way and the conclusion of both is that the only solution is the absolute prohibition of fishing for sockeye salmon in the Fraser River District and waters inhab-

ited by this fish on its annual migration to the spawning beds of the Fraser River watershed, for a term of years sufficient to rehabilitate the run. The letter of the Hon. Wm. Sloan follows while that of Mr. Babcock will be found on page three of this issue. Mr. Sloan says:

"As the Commissioner of Fisheries for the Province of British Columbia, I desire to comment briefly on the present precarious condition of the sockeye salmon fishery of the Fraser River. The watershed of that river, and its channels lie wholly within the Province. From its watershed have come all, but a fraction, of the sockeye that have been taken in the waters contiguous to the international boundary line which separates the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington. From that watershed must continue to come the seaward migrants of sockeye which produce the commercial runs of sockeye to those waters, because there is no other watershed tributary to those waters which affords sufficient spawning and rear-

ing waters for sockeye salmon. The vast runs of former big years demonstrates the extent, and the value of the runs that that watershed can produce. It is the greatest sockeye producing watershed known. No other watershed has produced such vast numbers of sockeye. That watershed is today as capable as ever of producing the vast run of the past. It has not been contaminated. Settlement, power and irrigation have not injured it in any way. It needs only to be protected to produce the great runs of the past. Its produce has been lessened,—almost destroyed—because a sufficient number of spawning sockeye has not been per-

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