

The CHAIRMAN: Is that from one man or from a union of fishermen?

Mr. MCQUARRIE: This is from the Secretary of the British Columbia Fishermen's Protective Association, and the same man is also secretary of what he calls the Fraser River Fisheries Board.

The CHAIRMAN: It represents the views of a number of people?

Mr. MCQUARRIE: Of a number of fishermen there, yes. He has been in the business a very long time, and he is also a very strong man in the returned soldiers' organizations.

Mr. WARD: What is the nature of the meeting to-day, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Unless there is something special I thought we would call Mr. Found and get him to make a statement.

Mr. WARD: I have two matters that I have received recently from my constituents which I wish to read to this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Go ahead and read them now.

Mr. WARD: You remember some statements I made the other day with reference to the American fishing companies fleecing the Government out of taxes. Since then I have received correspondence that bears out my remarks at the last meeting. This correspondence is, in part:—

"Smoked Goldeyes are as you say a delicacy, and already they are well introduced to the trade of Western Canada and sell to the consumers without difficulty. Their regular wholesale price to the retail trade is 20c. per pound—"

I might say, Mr. Chairman, that this is one of the best versed men in the fishing industry in Western Canada.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you object to giving his name?

Mr. WARD: I can give his name if you wish.

"20c. per pound f.o.b. Winnipeg, which is a nice price for fish. The fishermen get 2c. to 4c. per pound for them delivered at the lake shipping points—"

Those points are Winnipegosis and Mafeking.

"at the lake shipping points, the consumers pay 25c. to 30c. per pound for them smoked. Who is making the money out of those fish? United States capitalists, without a doubt.

"Our whitefish, just as they come from the fishermen without being smoked sell to the hotels and restaurants in the United States cities at 30 to 35 cents per pound without hesitation. Last winter our fishermen were paid 5c. to 6c. per pound for them delivered at the railway shipping points. The consumers in the United States cities pay 25c. per pound upwards for our pickerel, whereas last winter our fishermen received 4½c. to 5½c. per pound delivered at the railway shipping points for those fish. Who is making the intervening money? Nobody else than United States capitalists. What are those United States capitalists doing as well as fleecing our fishermen? They are also fleecing the Government out of payment of income tax, the method being that Chicago instructs their branches on our lakes here to bill out the fish to the parent houses in the United States at such low prices that it is impossible for the branches on our lakes here to do anything else than show losses on operations. Thus no profits are shown on operations on our lakes by the Booth Fisheries Canadian Co., Limited, and the Armstrong Independent Fisheries, Limited, and in consequence no income taxes can be collected from those institutions by the Government of the Dominion of Canada. Is it possible to conceive anything more ridiculous in one of the large industries of our country? United States capitalists are not content with fleecing Canadian fishermen, but also needs must fleece the Government of the Dominion of Canada.