

Q. I am just curious about this amalgamated payroll of yours. I was wondering why you amalgamated your payroll.—A. We amalgamated our payroll primarily, sir, because after the disaster of 1913 when the supply of fish was so much depleted there was a great overlapping of equipment and labour. We had an entire canning outfit of our own—

By Mr. Neill:

Q. Have the Todd interests any mortgage on the property of the Sooke Harbour Fishing and Packing Company?—A. Have they any mortgage?

Q. Yes?—A. They have not, neither are we indebted to them.

By Mr. Kinley:

Q. Do they assist you in financing?—A. They do not, sir.

By the Chairman:

Q. You stated that the sockeye run was for one month.—A. Usually approximately that, sir; they come straggling along more or less; sometimes the run is later.

Q. I should like to know how your profits compare in the other months of the year with your profits in the month that the sockeye is running.—A. I never thought to do that figuring to give any part of the general business—the sockeye is the most valuable canning fish we get.

Q. What I should like to know is this. During the year, apart from the sockeye run, you get a good percentage of fish, sufficient to keep your cannery going?—A. Not always canning—the canning does not start usually until about the time the sockeye run. There are five varieties of salmon, which you perhaps know: the spring, sockeye, pink, coho and the chum. The spring is the first salmon to run in the spring.

By Mr. Reid:

Q. Do you can that fish?—A. We do not usually like to can the spring, until we absolutely have to. They are not an entirely satisfactory canning fish. They are perfectly wholesome and a very good fish; but they vary so in colour, varying, as you probably know, from as red as the sockeye down to the ordinary silver. The variation in colour such as that makes them not so desirable for commercial purposes.

Q. Have you any figures regarding the catch of spring?—A. Yes, I have.

By Mr. Hanson:

Q. Does your company pay so much per fish or per hour or per month?—

A. I beg your pardon.

Q. How do you pay your men?—A. Our employees are all paid so much a month and their board. It would be impossible to figure out compensation on any other basis for the reason that one trap may be very much more desirable than another, and they cannot all be on the same trap, and there would be no way of working it equitably on a price per fish. Anyway, it probably would not accomplish any good thing. It probably would not increase their wages or decrease them.

By Mr. Moyer:

Q. What would the wages amount to on the average; what is the minimum wage?—A. The minimum wage of any man on our payroll is \$80 and board. We figure that, I believe, as being equivalent to \$116.