

press article John Foster Dulles of the U.S. has just returned from peace talks in Japan, and is soon to visit the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand for further talks. The article did not disclose whether Canada is to be consulted before any peace treaty is signed with the Japanese. Now, Canada is a Pacific nation as well as an Atlantic nation. We have great fisheries on the West Coast and we are vitally interested in what the Americans are proposing in any treaty with the Japanese with respect to the Japanese fishing industry. Time does some strange things, and I think it would have been easier to have negotiated a peace treaty with Japan last year than it is now. If we wait much longer Japan is going to be sitting in the driver's seat, because of the fact that the Chinese are in Korea. If you take a map and see just how close Japan is to Korea, you will understand why the American Government and military men are anxious that Japan re-arm. They see the menace that is rising there, and so the rearmament of Japan has become a most vital factor indeed.

Before the last war Japan was the greatest fishing nation of the world, and I think she still holds that position. In 1939 Japan had a million men employed in her fishing industry, and her fishing fleets sailed everywhere on the Pacific Ocean. I do not believe she ever sent her ships to the Atlantic, but she sent large fishing vessels down the Pacific coast of North America. Her ships were to be found in Bristol Bay and in the American waters off Alaska. The Japanese fishermen, using nets of two miles or more in length—something almost unbelievable to the Canadian fishermen—and fishing fifteen to twenty miles off Bristol Bay, were catching salmon which were on their way to spawn in Alaskan rivers. Naturally the Americans were up in arms about this—actually they did come close to taking up arms—but the United States Government stepped in and Japan agreed to withdraw her fishing vessels. As honourable senators will remember, before the last war broke out, Japan signified her intention of withdrawing from the sealing treaty which she, Canada and the United States had signed.

In 1949 the United States Government sent a three-man delegation to Japan to talk to the fishermen of that country and get their views about world fisheries. This delegation was well received by General MacArthur, and was given every opportunity to do its work. Following a three months' investigation the delegation returned to the United States and reported to the President, among other things that the Japanese were particularly interested in utilizing world fisheries with no restraint at all.

The Japanese have no sense of conservation of fish. They do not take the precautions that we do in our country to see that the fish supplies are not destroyed. Before the war the Australians were worried because they found Japanese fishing fleets five miles off their coast. Some of us are now wondering just how far Canada has been consulted in the proposed peace treaty with Japan, particularly as to the matter of conservation of fish. I know that we are worried about it in British Columbia.

The government has made no announcement about any fishery agreement in the proposed treaty. We believe, and rightly so, that unless the Japanese are restricted in the treaty which is about to be made, they will once again sail across the ocean to deplete fisheries that we claim rightly belong to us. I know that when the Japanese were taking the salmon from Bristol Bay they said: "Well, we examined the fish we caught and we didn't find any Canadian or American flag stamped on their backs, so we claim them as ours because we caught them out in the open sea". Their contention was that these fish, having been caught in the waters outside the three mile limit, were theirs. They did not listen to arguments that the fish had their home in British Columbia and United States rivers and lakes, and that had it not been for the careful supervision maintained by the governments of Canada and the United States, and likewise the expenditure of large sums of money, no fish would be there at all. In a strict sense the Japanese are not concerned with conservation of the fisheries, and I fear that if their ships are once again allowed to roam all over the oceans they will not only endanger peace but will deplete one of our great natural resources, the salmon, halibut, cod, tuna and herring fisheries.

I have before me an account of the Pacific Fisheries Conference which was held in San Francisco early in November last. Mr. Susumu Nikaido, a member of the Japanese Diet and of its Fisheries Committee, and Mr. Tahei Iiyama, former chief of the Fisheries Agency of the Japanese Government, together with Mr. Kenjiro Chikaraishi, Secretary of the Foreign Office of Japan, had a discussion with leading American representatives of the Pacific Coast fishing industry. The attention of Mr. Nikaido was called to the fact that when the MacArthur Fisheries Mission visited Japan last year the heads of the leading ocean fishing companies of Japan had all admitted a desire to enter the coastal fisheries of the United States and