

While in consultation with the Indians, they wanted to know my business there, the fishing laws, where the license money went to, and several other things which I fully explained to them. Before I departed, they informed me they would not take out a license another season, and intended doing all the fishing they choose. I notified the cannery not to receive fish from an Indian another season, unless he had a license; so the matter stands. It will rest with the Department whether they will put on a sufficient force to prevent this another season or not. I am of opinion that the only way this illegal fishing can be prevented is by the presence of a sufficient force of guardians or a small armed cruiser to seize all nets, boats and canoes which do not comply with the regulations. Guardian Guillod, of Alberni, states that the regulations were successfully carried in his district, but in his opinion a number of Indians sold fish to parties without procuring a license. The natives in that district catch the salmon in traps, remove the eggs and leave the fish on the banks to decay. There is some talk of a cannery being erected at Alberni this season.

James Keill, guardian on Sooke River, states that the regulations in his district were fairly observed.

Wm. Healey, guardian at Sooke Lake, states that fly fishing for trout is increasing each season; that the fishery regulations were well observed and that there was no infringement by the use of explosives.

John Raymond, guardian on Shawingan Lake, states that fly fishermen were in excess of last season and that the regulations were particularly well observed.

John Berkeley, guardian on Comox River, reports the run of salmon plentiful during the season, but that he experienced a good deal of trouble with Chinese and white men using giant powder for killing fish in the upper reaches of the river and lakes.

Charles Jook, guardian on Nanaimo River, experienced considerable trouble in preventing the Chinese and Indians barring the river with weirs and nets.

Thos. McNeish, guardian on Rivers Inlet, made an entire exploration of the river and lake during the season, and recommends that the boundary line of net fishing be to the west of a line drawn due north from the Victoria Packing Company's wharf across the Wannock River.

Other fishery guardians' reports are herewith appended.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MOWAT,

Inspector of Fisheries for British Columbia.

REPORTS OF THE DIFFERENT FISHERY GUARDIANS TO THE INSPECTOR OF FISHERIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

FRASER RIVER.

BY JOHN BUIE, FISHERY GUARDIAN.

I have the honor to submit the following report as guardian of the Fraser River for the past season.

I was sole guardian in this district till the first of May, when the canneries having a great number of their boats out, Mr. Green was put on the lower part of the fishing ground. As far as a persistent endeavor to secure as many fish as possible was concerned, this was only a repetition of last year's operations.

About the middle of June in consequence of your prolonged absence in visiting certain districts on Vancouver Island and afterwards the Skeena River, it became