

Supply—Fisheries

Fraser river sockeye run to the people of British Columbia at the present time far outweighs the possible value of power. This is what Mr. Tom Ingledow, the vice president and executive engineer of the B. C. Electric Company has to say in a pamphlet entitled "Facts on Fish" published by the fisheries association of British Columbia which I received this morning:

—construction and labour costs for hydro developments are pricing them out of the market compared with the construction of thermal plants, since thermal costs tend to decline and hydro costs to rise.

He further declares that nuclear power is likely to be the most economic source of energy within the next ten to fifteen years and that that company is backing up this statement with a \$125 million project.

I do not wish to delay the committee, but when you think of the Stewart salmon and the fact that they stop eating when they reach fresh water, and for 800 miles they fight their way up the network of the Fraser and its tributaries to their spawning grounds, and that when they reach there they die and in the next year the fingerlings come down and four years later the cycle is repeated, it will be seen that nothing must be done which will interfere with one of the greatest sources of protein foods given to us by God.

There is one matter which has not been dealt with satisfactorily, and this, perhaps, is the main reason for my wishing to speak on this occasion. I refer to the subject of pollution. In British Columbia we have a pollution control act under the authority of the provincial government under which a provincial control board has been set up with limited jurisdiction over the waters of the Fraser river below Hope and in the gulf. But this act is more concerned with protecting public health and recreational areas than it is with preventing pollution of streams and its consequent effect upon the fishing industry. Industrial waste reaches a point at which it takes up the free oxygen content of the water, and the fish suffocate to death. This is quite apart from the pollution caused by the discharge of sewage from cities. I believe the Department of Fisheries should be vested with proper legal authority to exercise a power of veto over the discharge of industrial waste into rivers. This may become a problem of vital importance a few years from now as industrial development in the west increases.

I believe also the Department of Fisheries will have to work more closely with the Department of Agriculture with regard to the spraying of forests with insecticides, because D.D.T. sprays, although they are

saving our forests and although an attempt is made to apply them under ideal conditions, are killing the vegetable life in our streams and killing the fingerlings in the bays into which the streams empty. There does seem to be a great deal of work required to be done in connection with discovering selective sprays which will kill the forest-destroying insects but which will not affect our fisheries.

The question of too many fishermen has been brought to my notice. I believe the fishermen would welcome a licensing system, though that would be in conflict with our spirit of free enterprise. With the increase in protection now being afforded, in the next 25 years if proper conservation measures are used there will perhaps be enough fish to enable us to avoid the need for licensing. But in the meantime if we do not add to the number of fish we have got to reduce the gear.

Turning briefly to another matter, with regard to markets, I regret I did not specify a remark I made. I was referring to canned salmon.

I should like, in conclusion, to read part of a report on the fishing industry of British Columbia made to the Gordon commission:

During the years immediately following the war, we were unable to restore our traditional export canned salmon markets due to their lack of dollars. Thus we saw one market after the other close its doors to British Columbia canned salmon. To meet this crisis the industry undertook a vigorous campaign to increase sales on the domestic market. Through good merchandising methods, aided by the factors of increased population and purchasing power of the consuming public, we have been able to build up the domestic market to 50 per cent of the average annual pack. Direct and sustained approaches were also made to retain at least a portion of the important market in the United Kingdom. It was recognized by the industry that the United Kingdom had to have dollars if she were to continue to purchase goods from Canada in substantial quantities. To this end, the industry worked through every available channel and received excellent government co-operation. They sent a delegation to Britain to see what could be purchased for use in the fishing and other basic industries of British Columbia. That this goodwill gesture was appreciated is testified by the number of compliments the industry has received during and since it has inaugurated this program. Its effectiveness has been substantiated by the increasing volume of British made goods being utilized in the fishing industry and by their related suppliers. During the last few years, the United Kingdom has made dollars available for canned salmon purchases of about 200,000 cases annually. Some other markets, such as The Netherlands, France, Italy, and New Zealand have continued to find the dollars with which to carry on this trade.

It has been estimated, however, that the United Kingdom market could be worth 1½ million cases to us if only Great Britain had sufficient dollars available. Mr. Chairman, I did have some more I should like to have said, but I should like to close at this point.