

Japanese Fisheries' Board in 1916. It says that it is desirable "To discourage all disadvantageous and useless competition, to the end that suitable and orderly progress and development may be made in the fisheries industry." I think that all gentlemen of this Committee will agree that it is a loss to the whole country that money should be wasted in the useless multiplying of plants which may become useless—many of them have become absolutely useless—and that it is almost a duty, and it is certainly a desirable function for the Government, to attempt to prevent such losses in future.

*By an Hon. Member:*

Q. Could the same thing not be said of the saw-mill industry?—A. Yes; I think it is a national loss that money should be wasted in that way. I think it is a most desirable thing that the wasting of money throughout the Dominion should be discouraged.

Q. Whether in a saw-mill or in a cannery?—A. Or anything else; and if regulations are so devised that it encourages an absolutely useless duplication, whether such as railways running alongside of each other or in any way, I think it is economically wrong.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. Do you think it is the duty of the National Government to interfere to prevent competition in any one particular industry?—A. That is a very big question. There are some things with which the Dominion of course cannot interfere.

Q. Then you confine your attitude to this industry?—A. Oh, no.

Q. Then what is it?—A. This industry is carried on very largely under license from the Government. A grocery store, for instance, is on a different basis.

Q. But the competition is keener; there are more grocers than there are canneries?—A. They are not licensed to the same extent. They do not pay the same amount of taxes to the Government. I may mention that the taxes paid by the canneries are very very high. An average cannery will pay from five up to ten thousand dollars, and it is becoming a very heavy burden under present conditions. As you all know, I think, the salmon canneries, in common with nearly all manufacturing industries, have had very hard times indeed. I do not know that we have had harder times than other people, but certainly they have been hard enough, and when heavy, heavy taxes are imposed it makes conditions perhaps harder than the industry is well able to bear, and we are going to see a good many difficulties and failures. I have before me our balance sheet submitted to our directors in London for the year ending June 30, 1921. I do not submit this with any pride, I can assure you, because it shows a net loss for the year ending June 30, 1921, of £44,711.

*By Mr. McQuarrie:*

Q. Is that the A.B.C. Company?—A. The A.B.C. Packing Company. Our estimated loss for the following year, that is, the year ending June 30, 1921—

*By the Chairman:*

Q. That is, this year?—A. Our estimated loss for this coming year, for the year ending June 30 of this present year, will be about £50,000.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. On how many canneries?—A. Well, we have thirteen canneries in British Columbia, and we are running this year only four out of the thirteen.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You say that you lost £44,000 last year and expect to lose £50,000 this year. What would you suggest as a remedy for the state of affairs in British Columbia? How should the business be curtailed, if it should be curtailed?—A. My view is that one of the primary causes of this cut-throat competition is the unnecessary multipli-

[Mr. H. Bell Irving.]