

no trapping licence and so the department agreed to buy the licences in order to place the Indian on the same footing as the white applicant. We found that policy has been most helpful.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Is that the provincial department or the federal?

The WITNESS: We pay the provincial department for the registration. We also buy from the trapper any traplines that we consider are necessary for Indian trapping.

Mr. BLACKMORE: That is the federal authority? You buy the trapline from the white trapper?

The WITNESS: Yes, on the approval of the British Columbia Game Board they are bought for the Indians.

I would like to say a word on the fishing industry. 3,600 licences for fishing in tidal waters were issued to the Indians of the province of British Columbia last year. There are 18 classes of licences issued, so that an individual can have a number of licences.

The return from fishing as far as we can gather, when I left the province, was in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000. It is estimated that there are in excess of 1,020 fishing boats of various kinds owned by the Indians in the province of British Columbia.

Perhaps I may be permitted to observe here that the economic condition of the Indians in British Columbia has greatly improved since the removal of the Japanese from the fishing grounds. They were subject to very keen competition and in the years preceding the war with Japan the Indians of the Pacific coast were almost entirely dependent on the government of Canada for support. In other words they had been, because of the Japanese competition, driven from the fishing grounds from which they had been accustomed through the years to derive a living.

The Indian women and children are employed to some considerable extent in the canneries, and housing conditions in those canneries are not what we would like them to be. I think there has been evidence of improvement in recent years but it is extremely difficult for the officials of the Indian Affairs branch in the province of British Columbia to take action in the matter because the responsibility is a provincial one and not a federal one. We have from time to time drawn the attention of the health authorities of the province to the conditions that exist in the hope that some effective action would be taken and in some cases the province did investigate and insist on certain improvements being made. It is very difficult for us where we have no jurisdiction to go in and tell a man what he should do with respect to premises that belong to him. However, I trust that pressure from both provincial and federal authorities will improve a situation which is anything but what it should be in the interests of health.

Halibut fishing is somewhat of a new development on the part of the Indians. They were not commercially interested in the halibut fishing to any great extent until recent years as far as I can make out. However, four or five years ago we encouraged some of them in the Skeena agency to participate in the halibut fishing. The department bought some gear for them and assisted them in other ways in providing food, with the result that some of them took on that type of work and the returns from it were quite encouraging.

I anticipate many questions in connection with the various divisions that I have made reference to so that I need not go into any greater detail, I should think, in the matter of the sketchy information that I am giving you.

I would like to pass on now to Indian education. Indian education in the province of British Columbia had its genesis in the missionary activities of the church and you see in that the background of the position the church still