

determine the escapement. In this stream we have moved the fishing area further down, we have been moving it seaward.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: This river has not got the advantage of a big inlet, like the Skeena has?

Mr. FOUND: No sir. And it is easier to watch.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: I rather gathered from your previous remark that a large inlet was an advantage.

Mr. FOUND: Yes sir, an advantage as far as the fish is concerned.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: On the next sheet you give the figures for outlying districts, Lowe Inlet area, Bella Colla, Butedale, and so on. The figures here show a decline, do they not?

Mr. FOUND: It is so hard to say. The fish were hauled different distances in past years. That is why I gave figures for the province, because you get a fairer picture by taking the whole province than by looking at lesser areas. The same thing is true with respect to the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Vancouver Island is relatively small too?

Mr. FOUND: Yes.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: On the whole, is the fishery increasing or decreasing on Vancouver Island? Is it holding up?

Mr. FOUND: I think so, sir. As a matter of fact, I am quite ready to say the department takes the ground it is worthy of censure if any of these areas are permanently going to be allowed to go down. But it is so difficult to say for a few years just what is happening.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: What do you call permanent?

Mr. FOUND: If there is permanent depletion—

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Over a period of ten years?

Mr. FOUND: A ten-year period gives a fair picture, with one thing and another, unless some unusual condition intervenes. We are watching it year by year as closely as possible, and taking steps wherever they are regarded as necessary to meet any situation where it seems there is a decline.

Hon. Mr. KING: What protective measures do you take?

Mr. FOUND: The protection is given by reducing the fishing. For instance, in the Skeena river we may have to close the fishing in 1937. We are giving the matter very close attention. It is not easy to do these things; the industry has to be notified in advance in order that it may make its arrangements accordingly.

Hon. Mr. KING: You open the river for the run at certain periods?

Mr. FOUND: We now limit fishing to a certain point in the river. It may be that we shall have to take that point down to practically the mouth of the river, and restrict fishing to outside the river altogether, so as to assure the salmon a chance to get to the spawning grounds. The situation is difficult when you have a downward cycle. That is the very time when in the nature of things fishermen want to fish as hard as they can.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you take the same action with regard to the Fraser river?

Mr. FOUND: We have not been taking the same action as we would have taken if it had not been an international situation. That is, we are taking what are regarded as reasonable measures, but if we impose very strict limitations and the same thing is not done on the other side, the fishermen on the other side will benefit.

Hon. Mr. KING: Are any protective measures taken by the Americans on their side of the waters tributary to the Fraser river?