

These in brief are the reasons why we feel that further exemption should be granted the Ottawa River from the Act forbidding the throwing of sawdust and mill refuse into the stream.

We have no desire that our private interests should be in any way promoted at the expense of those of other private individuals or of the public. This is a question that must be looked at from the standpoint of the greatest good to the greatest number, and we submit that upon the questions as to the effect of this material upon the navigation, upon the fishery interests, upon the purity of the water and upon the public health, no satisfactory evidence has been adduced to prove that any substantial injury arises from the presence of sawdust or mill refuse in the river Ottawa, but that upon the other hand it is productive of greater good than injury.

We believe it is alleged, we are unable to say with what truth, that this is the only locality in which exemption is granted in Canada. If that be true, it must be borne in mind that this is probably the only locality in the Dominion where the same conditions exist, viz: a rapidly running current with an immense volume of water, conditions which admit of the disposition of this sawdust and mill refuse by allowing it to fall into the stream without any substantial injury to any public or private interest.

It may be deemed superfluous for us to make any statement as to the probable effect upon the business interests of the Ottawa section of the enforcement of the Fisheries Act as amended at the last session of Parliament, but inasmuch as it is a matter in which the people of Ottawa and its vicinity have a very substantial interest, we may be pardoned the statement that such enforcement must have one or other of two results; either that the mills must be removed to some other locality, since Ottawa possesses no advantages as a lumber manufacturing point apart from the unrestricted use of the water power, but on the other hand very many serious disadvantages, or, that burners must be erected for the burning of this material, which will tend to create a smoke nuisance throughout the whole city, and will doubtless be taken advantage of by insurance companies to raise the rates upon all insurable property within the limits of the city. In either case, we submit that the public interests, so far as Ottawa is concerned, would suffer much more than they could by any possibility suffer from the present practice of allowing this material to pass away in the running water of the river.

It would be most satisfactory to us if we were made aware as to what interests are pressing this matter upon the attention of the Government, what protests have been entered against the continuance of the present practice. So far as we know, any representations made to the Government in the premises have been in favor of permitting sawdust and mill refuse to fall into the river, not asking that it be prohibited.