

Mr. WHITMAN: I cannot answer that. Perhaps there is someone in the group who can answer it.

Mr. G. O'BRIEN (*Ottawa*): I think that would be a very minor movement. We are ourselves very large shippers of lake fish; our exports to the United States run around eighteen or nineteen million dollars.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: But we do import?

Mr. O'BRIEN: Yes, oysters and other varieties we do not produce in Canada.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: Have you any hope more than you express here for increased trade with the United States in British Columbia canned salmon? Is there any chance of accomplishing anything there?

I shall have to ask one of my British Columbia friends to answer that. Mr. Hyland?

Mr. J. NORMAN HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, as outlined in the brief, we in British Columbia do not regard the United States as a hopeful or prospective market for our canned salmon. The ad valorem duty under normal trading conditions constitutes a very formidable obstacle to trade with that country. It is only under circumstances where there is a very distinct shortage of salmon in the United States and where there is a proper spread between our two price levels that we can achieve access to that market for canned salmon.

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: I notice you say that British Columbia's principal exports of fresh and frozen fish are mainly salmon and halibut and the United State is the principal export buyer. And you called that "a dependable pattern". Are there any steps that could be taken to bring about the same relations with British Columbia canned salmon as with the other fish products in the province, or do you think it is hopeless?

Mr. HYLAND: Well, I would not term it hopeless, but the United States with its industry in Washington and Oregon, and its very substantial industry in Alaska, over a long period of years has maintained a very high protectionist attitude toward canned salmon, and for many years a 25 per cent ad valorem duty constituted almost a complete barrier, and when you consider that these ad valorem duties are being put on a product with a value today ranging from \$15 a case to \$35 or \$40 a case, applied on a per case basis, the duty is very high, and there is not sufficient difference in the cost of production in British Columbia and the United States producing centres that we can hurdle that part of the barrier.

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: Is your tariff much higher than the Canadian tariff on the same products of canned salmon?

Mr. HYLAND: No, I believe they are equal.

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: So our tariff is not any lower?

Mr. HYLAND: No.

Hon. Mr. EULER: Was there anything done at the meetings of GATT to do with that question?

Mr. HYLAND: Yes, when the reduction from 25 per cent to 15 per cent was achieved.

Hon. Mr. EULER: Did it help, though?

Mr. HYLAND: Yes, certainly it helped. For instance, in the trading which is referred to on pink salmon, in the past six months a range of prices in Canada for a case of pink salmon, our present domestic price to the trade is \$15. The range of price in the United States has been from \$18 to \$20. So the Canadian producers could under that range of prices sell in the United States, pay the duty and still be netting not lower than their Canadian sales price. That, of course, absolves them from the risk of dumping action.