

of Commons I will let it go at that. The three men who composed that board were also brokers; that is, they received orders from abroad to buy fish. Very often, consignments or cases of salmon would be turned down by this board, and the cannery would be told that the particular pack of salmon graded B. Then, two or three days later, the cannery would receive inquiries from these brokers—who were also the inspectors—asking if they had any cases of grade B salmon to sell. It amounted almost to a racket. Just to show how farcical the whole thing was, I might mention just one instance. Certain cannery men in the northern part of British Columbia would send tins of salmon to Vancouver and ask the board to inspect them. But there was no check made at the cannery in the north in regard to the cases of salmon whence came those samples. In other words, the inspection board trusted to the honesty of these men. I am not doubting their honesty for a moment; but how the inspectors could say, from the samples received, that the pack should be passed, is away beyond me.

Then, as an argument as to why the seiners should be allowed to catch pink salmon, they said, "Well, we are paying a better price for the salmon caught by the seiners compared with the salmon caught by the gill netters," and it was said that the cannery men would never pay a higher price to the seine boats unless the fish were of better quality. Well, I looked into that aspect of the argument and found there was nothing to it. As a matter of fact, one could take various districts where fishing takes place, outside the estuary of the Fraser, and find different prices; but these differences were not altogether on account of differences in quality. For instance, up in Butedale, or Namu, or Bella Coola—and I have the prices for April 2, 1935, as sent out by Doctor A. W. Found—purse seine fishermen were receiving 3½ cents each for pinks, while the gill net fishermen were receiving only three cents. On the other hand, in Butedale the salmon fishermen operating cannery gear, that is, nets loaned to them by the cannery men, were receiving only 2½ cents. In 1934, when I argued this matter, I placed on record figures proving that there was no truth whatever in the statement that the seiners had received a greater price for their pink salmon than had the gill netters.

Then, to come again to the matter of quality, in 1934 they began to exhibit figures of the number of cases of salmon condemned, seeking to leave the thought that these salmon had been caught by gill netters further up the river, that they were of poorer quality

[Mr. Reid.]

and that all the salmon caught by the seiners were A-1 fish. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think I proved to the satisfaction of everyone but the departmental officials and the acting Minister of Fisheries that this was not so. The then acting Minister of Fisheries spoke to me in 1933 when I left the house; he said, "Mr. Reid, I do not know the first thing about fish. I do not know whether a haddie swims opened out flat as you see it in the store, or whether it goes around the sea closed up. But," he stated, "I took the advice of the British Columbia men"—including the then Minister of Trade and Commerce—"but I don't know what it's all about." That was his frank admission to me, just after I had advanced the argument in the house in 1933.

Mr. Speaker, the seine boats never before were allowed in this area. Ever since 1922, after the commission consisting of members of this house had gone to British Columbia and had reported to the house—and I have a copy of the report before me—it was stated that in any district or area where gill netting could be done, no seine boats should be allowed. That policy had been adhered to all the way along until, as I say, in 1933, when they were allowed by order in council to move into this area.

I well remember some of the other arguments in those days by the Department of Fisheries. Prior to that time and in the year following they were arguing, and arguing strenuously, that if the Fraser river fishermen were allowed to export their salmon before it was canned, the whole industry would collapse. And well do I remember the strong arguments put up by the deputy minister of fisheries, both in committee and in person. The argument was made in this way, "Oh, no, we cannot allow the Fraser river fishermen to export these salmon, even though they would get a better price in the United States. If we do that, the industry will be doomed; it will collapse."

Well, Mr. Speaker, after many protestations, especially by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) and myself, the embargo was lifted. The industry is still going on. It may be in a little worse condition to-day, but it is not because fishermen have exported great numbers of salmon across the border. May I point this out to hon. members: While it is true that United States interests allow the use of seine boats close to the international boundary line, still they take very great care that in their own country they do not allow the use of seine boats at the mouths