

F. D. BURKHOLDER LIMITED

FURS

119 BANK STREET, OTTAWA, CANADA,

June 11, 1934.

The Honourable Members in Committee,
The Senate,
Ottawa.

Re: Sealing and Fisheries in Pacific Waters

GENTLEMEN,—In the second Committee meeting report on page 50, the Chairman asked of me:—

CHAIRMAN: Do you consider that, in Canada, we have suffered a loss by reason of the skins being processed in the United States rather than in Great Britain?

Mr. BURKHOLDER: Unquestionably, sir.

CHAIRMAN: To what extent?

Mr. BURKHOLDER: It would be difficult to state to what extent. I imagine it would run into millions of dollars.

In the supplementary letter presented by Mr. W. F. C. Devlin which is embodied in the report, on page 65 the following appears:—

As the Committee is desirous of determining the value to Canada of the operations under this Treaty, we must adhere to facts because by them only can your Committee arrive at a sound conclusion. It is not a fact to say that Canada has lost millions of dollars through its methods of operation under the Treaty. Such a statement is incorrect and extremely unfair to our Department of Fisheries. It is certainly not borne out by any recent market reports—see London Fur Brokers' comments enclosed.

To substantiate my statement, I beg to offer the following. In the last eighteen months the firm I represent has made fifty-one Alaska seal coats valued at \$17,970, and have orders on hand to the value of \$2,525, which represents a total of \$20,495, or a yearly amount of \$13,663. This business, gentlemen, has been obtained during a period of great depression at a time when values were at their lowest, and were we to go back over a period of twenty years, the total amount of available business would be at least \$273,264, for, as I have already stated, the values were at their lowest.

Now to be even more conservative, in fact extremely so, let us state that only half of this amount was obtainable, and we have the sum of \$136,632.

Now when you come to consider that there are three hundred and thirty-one recognized furriers in Canada, not to mention department stores such as Eatons, Simpsons, and The Hudson's Bay Company (who sell thousands of fur coats annually) and many smaller department stores who sell hundreds of fur coats, then again there are the specialty shops that sell a few fur coats in the winter—these I have not included in the list of furriers, neither have I included the wholesale manufacturer who sells at retail whenever he gets the chance.

Now if the firm I represent has been able to make these sales, surely there must be, in at least ten of the larger cities of Canada, at least one furrier that