

Result: Small operators frozen out by big ones. All returned soldiers who went into this game went broke, as I predicted beforehand. This is the biggest joke in Canada, outside of the tragic side of it. It is the most ghastly travesty ever perpetrated on the Coast.

"5. Abolition of cannery license fee of \$5 and substitution therefore of case tax that would be fair to all and would encourage groups of fishermen to can their own fish. This would give the smaller operator a fighting chance.

"6. More practical common sense in the care of salmon fry. Hatcheries obtain great results in number of eggs successfully hatched, but what good does that do when less than one-tenth of one per cent ever reach maturity? We want more study of the Oregon system. No departmental official or employee, up to last fall, has spent more than two days in acquiring knowledge that it took Clanton and his men from twelve to fourteen years to obtain, and they admit that they don't know it all yet. Would you call that good business. They should go through all the details of the work during the various seasons, when the food of the fish changes, and observe results. Many other business men with some basic knowledge are put in charge. You didn't hire a bricklayer to run the C.N.R. You got a railwayman. But who ever heard of a fisherman or a canner obtaining a responsible position in the fisheries department of British Columbia? But why haven't they? Not long ago the department was bragging about an invention of one of its minor officials. I wonder what the poor Scot who used it over seventy years ago would say were he alive. He were better dead, as he might choke to death.

Here we have an industry worth millions, and heretofore the mainstay of it has been the sockeye. They are the fish the government protected and propagated and they are the ones going headlong to extinction. In any other business what would have been done? Stock would be taken and sharp inquiry made into the causes by competent men with a view to remedial action. Would any other business have been allowed to run down hill on the same idiotic system? The answer is no. And this has gone on for twenty years. Cohoe, spring and dog salmon, all ardently fished for, are increasing in the Fraser river. So are the humpback salmon. Last year a department official said the government was going to protect the humps. An old fisherman fervently exclaimed: "God help the hump. He'll follow the sockeye now." The sockeye has the best chance to get up the river of any salmon. He comes in the freshet time, when the river is wider, deeper and swifter than at any other time and consequently harder to fish with gill nets. He can go under or around the nets. Yet he is on the wane. The coho for instance, which some twenty years ago was rarely caught in larger numbers than six or seven to a drift, comes when the river is low, often the nets reach almost from shore to shore and sweep the bottom in many places; and yet today he comes in myriads compared with twenty years ago. He has been spared the blessing of government protection and fostering care.

"7. A board in British Columbia to deal with fisheries problems and make recommendations to the Minister thereon. There has been such a board and was up to the outbreak of the war, but its activities were never such as to command any attention or support, and its prerogatives appear to have been usurped by one man. We want a board of practical British Columbia men. Then we will get some results, and I am sure that the pathway of the minister and his department would be much smoother and there would be more harmony all around.

"I wish that Fisheries Committee would come out to British Columbia and investigate where the investigating is good, and not diagnose the case by radio from a distance of three thousand miles."