

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: This had to do with the clause in the Sockeye Salmon Treaty with respect to the fishery being largely non-existent. I disputed that and said that at the same time we were having the most favourable reports regarding the fishery.

I read now from page 15 of the Annual Report of the Department of Fisheries for the year 1930-31. This is the report of the Deputy Minister:—

### PACIFIC COAST FISHERIES

The remarkable success of the salmon fishery, from the standpoint of size of runs and quantity of production, overshadowed all else in British Columbia fisheries operations in 1930. So large were the runs, indeed, that had it not been for the restraining influence upon production which was exerted by the unsatisfactory economic conditions obtaining in virtually all markets, the output of British Columbia's salmon industry for the year would have mounted to figures substantially higher than the record-breaking total which was actually reached. These market conditions were so extremely unfavourable, however, that not only was there greatly lessened incentive for the salmon interests to take advantage of the exceptional size of the runs but the year was made one of very serious difficulty for the industry. In this connection it may be added, moreover, that the present outlook is that operations in the salmon industry in 1931 will continue to be attended by a good deal of difficulty because of the depressed and unsettled market situation.

The appearance of the great runs of salmon in 1930 was a reason for much satisfaction, especially since it indicated that the steps taken in recent years to regulate and conserve the fishery have been sound and that there need apparently be no apprehension that the stocks of the several varieties of salmon cannot be successfully maintained for the future. In this connection it is illuminating to look at figures showing the annual production of canned salmon in British Columbia since 1916 as averaged for five-year periods. From 1916 to 1920, both years inclusive, the average yearly pack was 1,349,895 cases. In the next five years the annual average was 1,340,735 cases, but this period included a time of market depression and it may reasonably be assumed that had it not been for this market condition the average canned salmon production would have exceeded that for the previous five years. For 1926-1930 the yearly average was 1,816,754 cases, or an increase of more than 465,000 cases over the figures for either of the earlier five-year periods. This growth in pack indicates clearly that the salmon runs have not been undergoing depletion, although it is properly to be noted that the size of the growth is explained, in part, by greater cannery activity in processing pinks and chums because of an enlarged demand, in more recent years, for these varieties of canned salmon.

The sockeye runs in 1930, especially to the Naas, Skeena, and Fraser areas, were gratifyingly large, and in the case of the late runs to the Fraser system the individual fish were of bigger size, speaking generally, than in most preceding seasons. The year's pack of canned sockeye, 477,678 cases, was the largest since 1914. As compared with the production in the last preceding sockeye cycle year (1926), the 1930 pack represented a gain of nearly forty-two per cent. These figures are useful as giving some indication of the size of the sockeye runs but any estimate of the measure of sockeye abundance during the year must take into account the fact that, in order that there might be no doubt that sufficient fish would be able to make their way to the spawning grounds, the department enforced various "closed times," in addition to those specifically set out in the regulations, when no fishing was permitted. In the Fraser river, for instance, fishing was stopped completely from September 20 to October 20. As a result of the enforcement of these extra "closed times" in different areas the catch of salmon was, of course, considerably curtailed and production figures, therefore,