

with any loud acclaim. The whole trouble has been with the State of Washington. Apparently those in control of the fishing industry in that state have been so eager to make money quickly that they have altogether lost sight of the advantage of conserving the fishery out of which they are making their money. Many persons with expert knowledge of the sockeye salmon have come to the conclusion that it would be better for the people of British Columbia to exhaust the fishery and get what they can out of it. They have absolutely no confidence that the people of the State of Washington will "play ball"—that they will try to conserve the industry.

However, this Government has taken the responsibility of asking for ratification of the treaty, in the hope that something beneficial may result. What that benefit may be it is hard to say. There is a request for an eight-year investigation. Why, experts have been investigating the sockeye salmon fishery for the last thirty years. I doubt very much whether the proposed commission will be able to add to our present knowledge after eight more years of investigation. But our Government says the ratification of this treaty will lead to the setting up of a commission which may do something to conserve the fishery. Well, the responsibility is on the Government, and I see no reason why it should be relieved of that responsibility.

For these reasons I shall not oppose the resolution. At the same time I would remind honourable members that we in British Columbia expect few beneficial results from the treaty. I am inclined to think that eight years from now we shall find ourselves virtually in the same position as we are in to-day.

Hon. H. H. HORSEY: Honourable senators, it may be that after the Canadian and American commissioners have conducted their investigation for two or three years they will reach a unanimous decision, and then the matter could be reopened. I think that in another place it was suggested that that course would be followed, and that the American Government would be so advised.

In 1930 the Americans had by far the larger part of the catch: I think they had roughly about two-thirds as against Canada's one-third. But last year, I understand, the positions were reversed. So if the object of the convention is to bring about approximate equality of catch by limiting the fishing in different parts, and so on, it would seem that the Americans would have good reason before long to make some move in that regard.

It is disappointing, especially to our Government, that these understandings or modifica-

tions or reservations—whatever they may be termed—in administration of the treaty should seem to hold up the matter for another seven or eight years. But, to me, it is unthinkable that we should, as suggested by the honourable member from Victoria (Hon. Mr. Barnard), consider destruction of the spawning beds of the sockeye salmon, and consequent destruction of the whole fishing industry. No doubt certain conditions in the State of Washington are creating considerable trouble, but I understand that a large majority of the fishermen on the Pacific coast are in favour of the proposed arrangement, and it seems to be the only forward step that we can make at the present moment.

Hon. Mr. BARNARD: Does the honourable member mean the fishermen on the Canadian or on the American side?

Hon. Mr. HORSEY: The fishermen on the Canadian side. Therefore I think it would be unwise for us to reject the treaty.

Hon. Mr. BARNARD: I may point out to the honourable gentleman who has just taken his seat (Hon. Mr. Horsey) that the depletion of the sockeye salmon fishery was brought about by the fishermen of the State of Washington, their indiscriminate use of fish traps resulting in a frightful waste of immature fish. They have for the time being abandoned the use of fish traps, but there is nothing in this treaty to prevent their resorting to that method again to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. HORSEY: The Americans have discontinued the use of fish traps for the present, but the Canadians are using four or five.

Hon. Mr. BARNARD: The honourable gentleman would not make that statement if he understood the actual conditions.

Hon. Mr. HORSEY: Perhaps not.

Hon. Mr. BARNARD: There is no relation between the fish traps used on the lower end of Vancouver Island and the fish traps which the Americans operated off the mouth of the river. I do not wish to be rude to the honourable gentleman, but I must say he betrays his ignorance of the local situation.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: It is moved by Hon. Mr. Dandurand, seconded by Right Hon. Mr. Graham, that it be resolved that, in connection with the exchange of ratifications of the convention between Canada and the United States for the protection, preservation and extension of the sockeye salmon fisheries in the Fraser River system, signed at Washington on the 26th May, 1930, it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve

Hon. Mr. BARNARD.