

*Criminal Code*

on fish and is destroying such fish. This is a quotation from a letter he has written:

I have been engaged in the marketing of commercial fish in Manitoba since 1920. Ten years prior to that I was a commercial fisherman. During all this period I have been vitally interested in the commercial fisheries in our province. In latter years I have been greatly concerned about the apparent decrease of fish based on production, particularly in lake Winnipeg, and have given a great deal of study and thought to the possible reasons why the production seems to have been declining so rapidly, and I have come to a definite conclusion in my own mind, based on my practical experience throughout the years, and from information I have gathered, and my conclusion is that the reason for the apparent depletion of fish in lake Winnipeg is because of pollution, and my humble opinion is that the greatest source of pollution comes from the Manitoba Pulp and Paper Mills at Pine Falls, and discharge of oil substances into the Red river, all of which is carried into lake Winnipeg and through the entire length of the lake, destroying the fish at first in the south end and driving it north away from the pollution. However, the oily substance does not disintegrate in the water and will destroy fish in the northern part as well, though maybe somewhat slower, and my opinion is that if this is permitted to go on, eventually there will be no production from lake Winnipeg. It would seem obvious that the weaker fish such as the small immature fish, stand a lesser chance of survival and consequently both the natural increase through spawning of the fish and the liberated fry from the hatcheries, would be destroyed first.

The amount of commercial fish taken from the lake during the short fishing season permitted by the Department calculating the number of fish based on the tonnage taken, is, in reality, very small compared with the natural increase which should take place through natural spawning the fish liberated from the hatcheries.

Prior to the establishing of the pulp mill at Pine Falls there was an abundance of good fish in Travers bay, one of the better fishing grounds in the lake. Since the establishing of the pulp mill, it has greatly decreased until now there is no fish there of any consequence, and the same applies now in other parts of the southern area of the lake.

I consider this situation serious enough that immediate action should be taken to make some thorough research and study of the condition of the water, and this should be carried on this summer before freeze-up, the earlier the better. Samples of the water should be taken at strategic points, commencing from the south end up to the north and from the surface of the lake and down towards the bottom. It has been noticed, and particularly so last winter, that fish caught out of Gimli had a very unusual obnoxious odour, which is not natural by any means to the fish.

It has also been noticed that fishing boats plying in the waters around Gimli and further north, gather a decided film of oily substance on their hulls, which would be proof of an oily substance being in the water. It has also been noticed that when the boats have been travelling from the south end of the lake to the northern area, that particularly in the southern section large quantities of dead fish have been seen floating on the surface of the water. I noticed in the press recently where comments were made about these floating dead fish, and the reason given was that the water was so warm or hot that the fish would swim up to the shallow water in the southern section and were killed in the warm water. However, this could not possibly account for dead fish being scattered over

the lake. A dead fish will only float for a short period of time before it would burst open and sink to the bottom or be eaten by gulls, therefore, the theory that these fish were killed through swimming into shallow hot water is not, in my opinion, correct. The water could not be hot enough to kill fish under any circumstances, and normally they do not swim that close to shore.

This letter is written by G. F. Jonasson of Keystone Fisheries Limited, who has been associated with that industry for many years. It is dated August 13, 1957. If this matter is getting so serious that the pollution of our streams and rivers will have this effect on fish in the large lakes—because lake Winnipeg is larger in area than lake Ontario—it is certainly becoming a very, very bad situation.

I would just like to deal briefly with a few press clippings from the *Winnipeg Free Press*. The first one is dated March 28, 1958 and the heading is "Mayor Wades in on Pollution Case". It reads as follows:

Top officials of the city of Winnipeg sped to the Red river bank at Disraeli street Thursday after a private sewer line was discovered to be pumping highly volatile oil slick into the water.

Mayor Stephen Juba Friday was leading a tri-department city investigation; and the Manitoba waterways association was demanding that charges be laid if they were justified.

Then on April 3, 1958 there is another heading as follows: "River Oil Blamed on Gas Company", and later on April 14, 1958, the heading in the same newspaper appears as follows: "Oil Dumping Storm Brews". The article on the oil dumping storm brewing deals with the fact that they did not know how to take action against the people responsible for the dumping of this oil. It states as follows:

One key point in the report raised a discrepancy which could not be immediately cleared up.

Here the clipping refers to a report of the commissioners, and it goes on as follows:

After the oil was reported, a sanitary spokesman said that until last year only the provincial government could license dumping into the river and that since last year the company had not been granted permission.

At the same time, a provincial government spokesman said that if the company ever had been given provincial authority that authority was not extended last year after the province stepped out of the field.

Then later on it continues:

So the questions arose: Did the provincial government grant permission? Did the sanitary district have the power to grant permission until a year ago or did it not?

So they did not know who to go after or to blame for the dumping, and all this raw sewage and commercial waste which enters the rivers creates a very great problem for any city located on such a river. It is a great problem to build sewage treatment plants, because they run into a lot of