

difficulty of supervision. It is much easier for the province to supervise an individual trapline than it is to supervise a block registration to determine who is responsible, speaking particularly of poaching, for instance. The solution probably lies in individual registration rather than the block. I think that that will come up eventually for consideration by the game commission of the province.

Now in 1925 when the Indians were advised to register their traplines we experienced the same difficulty as we had in the matter of recording water rights, "Why should we take out licences to trap when that is our heritage and our forefathers trapped without restriction, in view of all the promises that have been made to us by the Queen and the government of Canada?" they asked, and the result was that a good many Indian traplines were not registered in 1925 with the consequent loss to them of available trapping territory. I may say this, I feel without any reflection on those who were in charge at the time or any sort of criticism, that these traplines should have been registered by the agency concerned, irrespective of the attitude of the Indians. I am sure that the province of British Columbia would have accepted the registration under those conditions. The result, as I said a moment ago, is that in some areas of the province some of the very very old trapping grounds, Indian trapping grounds, are now held by whites. The earnings from trapping in the province of British Columbia were approximately half a million dollars. There are decreasing returns from trapping in many parts of the province and because of it the staff, such as we have, endeavor to encourage the Indians to raise stock and to do as much as possible in other fields.

I should like now to give you some information with respect to fishing.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Before you go on would you tell us how long the registration lasts?

The WITNESS: As long as the party complies with the rules and regulations.

Mr. CASE: Without breaking the rules, may I ask for an explanation of one item? You spoke about 17,000 head of cattle and I would like to ask how are they owned, by bands or by individuals?

The WITNESS: Mostly by individuals and I may add that there is no restriction with respect to marketing the stock or any other product in the province of British Columbia so far as the Indians are concerned. They do not have to refer to the Indian agent for authority to dispose of their grain or any other product.

Mr. CASE: That is only in British Columbia.

The WITNESS: I am speaking only of British Columbia. I do not know about the rest of Canada.

Mr. BLACKMORE: One more question. Is there any restriction on the Indians to whom they issue the stock, that is, if an Indian applies for stock is he able to obtain it?

The WITNESS: Well, of course, it is necessary for us to look into his character and his aptitude and holdings to see if he has sufficient range and sufficient acreage to produce hay. Those things are necessary to make a decision but I should say that the department has been very generous because, of course, the Indians receive assistance from the province in that respect. They have a special vote and I will come to that in time.

Now if I may refer to the trapping for a moment I omitted to inform the committee that we found it difficult in the province from time to time to secure traplines that were thrown open, that is the white traplines, because the Indians did not appear to have the same chance in competition with the white man for the traplines that were thrown open for the simple reason that the Indian bought