

13½ years. These figures are truly remarkable and reflect the greatest credit not only on the community of Sooke, but also on the companies where they find employment. I go farther to state that I doubt if there are many isolated communities in the whole of Canada presenting such an admirable economic picture.

It has been frequently said by Mr. Neill and the fishermen's witnesses that these people would not suffer with the closing of the traps, but frankly as a business man I doubt that changes of industry are introduced or accepted with such hopeful ease as these people would have us believe.

If these 27 house-owners have only \$1,000 each equity in their homes—and this is not a large figure—we have a total of \$27,000 in home property which will at least be in jeopardy until better conditions are not only promised but secured and enjoyed.

I question if any coherent group of fishermen in B.C. can show similar economic stability unless it be the Kyuquot Co-operative Trollers whose success during the past five years has been phenomenal and who—as I see it—form the most aggressive opposition to the existing conditions.

I do not propose to say anything about the companies; they have spoken for themselves, but it has been easy to discover the commercial acumen which they have brought to their business and their claim to put up the finest canned salmon from the B.C. waters has not been successfully contradicted in this committee, and Mr. Green voiced his opinion that they had run their business efficiently. (See page 54 these Minutes.)

The capital employed by the various types of fishing is preponderatingly more for traps than for any other type, but in view of the fact that many fishermen have their fishing capital loaned to them in the form of rented gear, boat, food and supplies by the cannery men, it is quite difficult to strike comparative figures although I have made an effort to do so.

The crux of the whole Sooke problem appears to be in the comparative success with which the traps catch the spring salmon, a catch which sweetens the whole business. Envy plays its part and the manner in which tinkers, tailors, soldiers and sailors have been marshalled into petitions certainly does credit to the persistence of those who have engineered the opposition to Sooke.

Of course I am a Socialist. I have stated so and my public and private acts should support that statement, but in saying that there is by that conveyed no implication that I must be unfair to my fellow man and I certainly do not want to take an undue or mean and tricky advantage of him. I look around me and see a groceteria doing business with three employees which an ordinary grocer's store would require fifteen employees for. I see this in every phase of our commercial life, but we do not find petitions nor public sentiment clamouring for their elimination. When economic changes come that change which will last will be that one which first assures the possibility of security to all and then produces it.

I am against traps in B.C. as commercial ventures under the present economic system, but no one has yet convinced me that the situation at Sooke is not an entirely unique situation. In fact the evidence taken earlier in these proceedings substantiates the claim. Dr. Found says at page 5, these Minutes:—

These traps (the American traps) operated up to Boundary Bay. You see the location of the boundary, and how that bay makes up north-erly into Canadian territory. The boundary goes right up across Point Roberts. These traps were placed in the shallow water there (indicating) all along the course of the boundary. In the nature of things there developed an agitation from the Canadian side to be allowed to use these traps. In 1904 a special commission was appointed to investigate conditions, and the requirements of the British Columbia fisheries. That commission after going into the whole matter recommended the traps be