

The Governments of Great Britain and the United States took over the fur-seal industry because it was essential to the preservation of the fur-seal. (See excerpt from Hansard, February 27th, 1908, page 3954, attached—Exhibit 3.) The fur-seal was threatened with extinction. Corporate and individual enterprise was killing them off. The Governments took them out of the hands of corporations and individuals and adopted a policy that has materially increased the numbers in the herds of fur-seals.

There is no inherent difficulty in taking over the salmon-fisheries. The existing operating companies in the salmon-fisheries have no operating rights beyond those granted them from year to year. The Government is under no obligations to renew the licences formerly granted to them. I suggest that the Government should assume the sole control

of the entire salmon industry, even though that may mean compensation where it can be shown that compensation is due. Many of the salmon plants on the Fraser are at present a liability and not an asset of the owning companies. The plants of Northern British Columbia will in a short period be as valueless as the plants on the Fraser if the existing policy of depletion is continued. The history of the Fraser will be repeated. The salmon fisheries of British Columbia will be depleted as Alaska is being depleted. (See attached statement of Charles D. Garfield, Alaska Fish Commissioner, Fishing Gazette, New York, December, 1919, page 28—Exhibit 4.) The Government should bear this in mind in taking over existing plants that may be found necessary for the work under Government control. The Government can, by combining its efforts, reduce overhead expenses by several hundred per cent. It can in consequence sell cheaper. It can put up as good, if not a better and more uniform pack. Being a Government-guaranteed product, it will be in greater foreign demand. And what is of greater importance, it will ensure the continuance of the salmon runs.

Government owned and operated fisheries, and I do not confine the suggestion that Government ownership be confined to the salmon-fisheries alone, for I would include trawl-caught fish, which together with the salmon would prove a valuable adjunct to the two transcontinental railway-lines owned and operated by the Government. (See report of Select Committee appointed to deal with schemes and suggestions made with a view of rehabilitating soldiers, Journals of British Columbia Legislature, pages 172-4, 1919; copy attached—Exhibit 5.) By the addition of large freezing and cold-storage plants at or near Prince Rupert and Vancouver, the Pacific terminal ports of Government-owned railway-lines, the Government will be in a position to supply the North-west Provinces and Eastern Canada with fish at cheap prices, employ returned men, and to dominate the local fish-food markets, to the immediate and lasting benefit of the fish and the people.

The fish of the Province belong to the people of Canada. They constitute one of their greatest natural assets. When our minerals and our timbers are drawn upon they are lessened to that extent. Minerals cannot be replaced. Our forests may, at great expense, be restored by reforestation, but they will not be available for several generations. Our fisheries, on the other hand, will last for all time if they are properly handled. Depleted runs can be restored. The runs of former years may even be enlarged. All that is necessary to maintain our salmon-supply is to ensure that a sufficient number of fish reach the spawning-grounds. If the beds are well seeded there will be a certain return. The fish will do all the work necessary, provided the Government gives them a chance to do so. They will perpetuate themselves without cost. They will entirely disappear if left to corporate and individual control.

The policy here advocated will meet with the approval of the people of Canada, since it means that the fisheries will be maintained in their interest, and that they may have fish at a cheaper price.

The policy proposed is a practical and sane business thing for the Government to undertake. It is a business that will pay dividends in a greater supply of fish, and at a cheaper price, not only to the people of to-day, but to our people that are to come after. Government control and operation is, in my opinion, the solution of this great economic question.

The Privy Council decided that the right to administer the fisheries of this Province rested with the Dominion, and that the right to fish was a public right subject to regulation by the Dominion. Provided the Dominion Government is not prepared to accept the policy here advocated, and

(Continued on Page 18.)

## BANKING SERVICE

With branches in every important city and town in Canada as well as in Great Britain, the United States, Newfoundland and Mexico, this Bank is in a position to afford you a banking service that is second to none.

### THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

Head Office - Toronto

Capital, \$15,000,000 Reserve Fund, \$15,000,000

Total Assets over \$440,000,000

INCORPORATED 1832

## The Bank of Nova Scotia

Capital ..... \$ 9,700,000  
Reserve and Undivided Profits, over.....\$18,000,000

For 87 years The Bank of Nova Scotia has handled the accounts of exporters and importers, fishing, lumber and shipping companies on the Atlantic seaboard; for 25 years in Newfoundland and the British West Indies. They were first established in Winnipeg in 1882 to take care of industry peculiar to the West. They have complete banking facilities at their Vancouver Branches for the handling of commerce of a maritime province such as British Columbia. Consult their Managers.

#### BRANCHES IN VANCOUVER

602 Hastings Street West Granville and Davie Streets  
N. W. BERKINSHAW, Mgr. DOUGLAS J. MAIR, Mgr.  
JAMES A. FIOTT, Asst. Mgr.