

I arrived at Naas Harbor on steamer "Boscovitz" on the 4th day of May, and found Mr. McLennen busily engaged in refitting the cannery premises which he had recently purchased, and extending the wharf, where steamers can now land, and secure cargo, at all stages of the tide. New premises were also in course of erection for a salmon saltery for Mr. Hall of Port Simpson. After having issued licenses for the number of boats which these establishments expected to employ, and made enquiries in reference to the persons likely to engage in salmon fishing on their own account, and also, in regard to the coolachan fishery and the different tribes of Indians that participated therein during the last seasons' fishing, I left the Naas in my boat for the Skeena, which I reached *via* Port Simpson and Metlakalta on the 11th of May. I there found the managers of the different canneries busily preparing for the season's work, and also preparing to repeat the mistakes of former years, by commencing operations at too early a date. A simultaneous commencement was made on the 21st of May, and it was after the 10th of June before the catch was remunerative, between which date a large number of magnificent fish had been caught at a heavy loss to all concerned.

During the whole season Indian salmon was scarce and fishing less satisfactory than in former years, the scarcity was owing to the fact of so many of the Indians from Metlakalta,—who were the most skilful fishermen—having joined Mr. Duncan's colony in Alaska, it was less satisfactory, as the place of the former had to be supplied by Indians from a great number of tribes, many of them from the forks of the Skeena, tribesmen of those who were concerned in the trouble that unfortunately occurred in that vicinity last summer. Such being the case it is not surprising that quarrels occasionally took place amongst them, resulting from their interfering with each other when fishing, and various other causes and which threatened at times to become serious. However by being constantly amongst them, and advising them, all serious trouble was averted, although the wild rumors and exaggerated reports which were constantly being circulated from the scene of the trouble on the Skeena kept them in a state of excitement and unrest.

The only serious difficulty which I had in enforcing the Fisheries Act was with the Indians of Kit-Sap. In regard to that, you are well informed from my letter and from information gained during your visit to the Skeena last summer.

I am convinced that a difficulty will not occur again in the same form, or of such formidable proportions, but that more or less salmon will be caught by Indians in remote places, and sold to their friends who are fishing on contract, who will land them at the canneries as their own catch, I have not the least doubt.

Fishing on the Skeena is very destructive to nets owing to the number of sunken, and half sunken logs and trees in the river, and I think that those who are engaged in this important industry are entitled to the consideration of the Government, and that suitable means should be taken to secure them from the large annual loss to which they are subjected.

I visited the Naas River again on the 24th of July, when I issued a few more licenses. There was a good run of salmon, but a scarcity of fishermen.

When at Naas Harbor I received a letter from the chief of the Indian village at Kincolith, near the entrance of the Naas River, requesting me to call at his village as he has something of importance to communicate. I landed there on my way back, and found the chief and a number of the principal men of the village assembled in the chief's house. They asked many questions about the law in regard to catching salmon on the Naas River; wanted to know exactly how much money I had collected this year, and what I had done with it. After being satisfied on these points, the chief very gravely informed me that I had done very wrong in collecting money for fishing on the Naas, without having asked permission from him, that the river belonged to him and to his people, that it was right that white men should buy licenses, but that he and his people should receive the money, that they were entitled to it all; but that as I had been sent to collect it, they were willing that I should retain half for my trouble. After a consultation amongst themselves, I was told that they had intended to demand half the money collected this year, but would