

TEXT OF REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

WHO INVESTIGATED FISHERIES QUESTION

Purse Seines and Trap Nets Fully Considered—Recommendations to Minister.

On Tuesday last the Times published a dispatch from Ottawa giving a summary of the report of the British Columbia salmon commission. The text of the report as presented to the minister of marine and fisheries is as follows:

To the Honorable Raymond Prefontaine, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa.

Sir—The commissioners, after considering most carefully the various phases of the salmon fishery in British Columbia, especially in connection with the serious crisis that has arisen owing to the use of trap-nets by the United States fishermen in the American waters of Puget Sound, have the honor to report as follows:

The commissioners cannot ignore the fact that the changed conditions in such an industry as the vast salmon industry on the Pacific Coast, demand alterations both in the methods of fishing and in the regulations generally. It is clear that the trap-net—of which three or four hundred are set on the United States shore—have induced a new phase which did not exist when the present regulations were framed. It is undeniable that a large portion of the salmon schools coming in from the open sea through Fuca Strait and making for the Fraser river, are caught by the United States traps.

It is alleged that the cost of these fish to the United States canners is considerably less than the cost of the fish caught by the Canadian fishermen to the Canadian canners. In view of this, the commission unanimously recommends that:

1. The use of purse seines be permitted in British Columbia.

Purse seines are movable, and can be so used as to capture the fish wherever they may be moving, so that the Canadian fishermen will be given increased opportunities of taking the Fraser river salmon before they reached the United States limits. Purse seines involve the employment of considerable labor, eight or ten fishermen at least being required to work a net, and it is possible for a number of fishermen to combine together to provide the tug and gear necessary for working purse seines. Expensive machinery, such as trap-nets appear inevitably to give a monopoly of the fishing operations to capitalists and canners of means, thus placing the poorer fishermen at a disadvantage. The use of purse seines will, to some extent, at least, meet this difficulty. There are several points in favor of purse seines—points upon which great stress was laid in evidence before the commission:

(1) The salmon will be caught on entering the Straits of San Juan de Fuca. (2) The schools of fish will be broken up and the present catches in traps lessened. (3) The British Columbia fishing season will be lengthened by two or three weeks, because the fish will be caught earlier.

(4) White fishermen, rather than Japs and foreigners, would be employed. (5) Purse seine privileges would be available for all parties, and would not be monopolized by capitalists. The commissioners would urge that the act prohibiting purse seines be amended without delay, so that purse seines, as an experiment, can be granted this summer.

Trap-Nets. With regard to trap-nets, the commissioners realize that the huge salmon traps used on the United States shores are most effective in taking fish in large quantities and cheaply. Of course many locations on the United States shores are found to yield poor returns, and there is a great variation in the success of trap-nets at different points. It is by no means clear that trap-nets can be successfully operated generally on our British Columbia shores, not only because the fish may not move sufficiently close in shore to be taken by trap-nets, which run out from below low water mark; but heavy seas and tides in many places would endanger the safety of these nets, which are extremely costly both in regard to material and fixing up.

It is impossible to ignore the fact that there is a large body of fishermen who rely upon gill-netting, and who would be wholly unable to take part in trap-netting. These men fish generally in the estuary of the Fraser river and out in the Straits of Georgia and might be seriously affected by trap-nets which would intercept the salmon before they could reach the Strait of Georgia.

On the other hand, from a business point of view, it seems reasonable to start to the British Columbia canners the most efficient and economical methods of fishing, such as are permitted in the adjacent waters; but if trap-nets are favored, by all means, there are some details which would require consideration. Thus, it would appear fair that canners who have vast interests should

be placed on the same footing in regard to allotment of trap-net locations. Dissatisfaction and endless trouble would arise if any particular fishermen or parties were given the best locations, and other firms with large vested interests, were less favorably treated. It was suggested that the government might operate trap-nets and supply the salmon at actual cost to the canners, while it was also suggested that the trap-net locations should be put up at auction; but both of these courses are objectionable.

Again, the commissioners are strongly of opinion that white labor should be employed in such trap-nets, were they allowed, and that Chinese, Japanese and other foreign labor should be discouraged or altogether prohibited, thus in any case, were this done, there would be a demand for white labor, which would go to meet the position to trap-nets of the white fishermen.

Geographical Limits.

Important witnesses urged before the commission that if trap-nets and purse seines were permitted, they should be confined to the waters south of the 49th parallel. This was very strongly urged in Victoria. The reason urged was that the canners and fishermen in the southern part of British Columbia had directly to face the competition of the United States traps, and were more immediately affected than the canners and fishermen further north.

The commissioners fail to see that such a restriction would be fully justifiable, and are of opinion that purse seines should be allowed in all the waters of British Columbia coast, as the industry in the northern portion of British Columbia has really to face American competition just as much as that in the southern part of the province. If the southern canners desire new methods of fishing to cheapen the cost and meet United States competition, the northern canners have the same claim to cheapen the methods of obtaining salmon.

This recommendation would apply also to trap-nets, if in the opinion of the minister these nets should be allowed in our Pacific waters.

Boat-Pullers' Permits.

The commissioners recommend that the boat-pullers' permits, at present required by law, be abolished. The object of the permits was a good one. It was found that United States and other foreign fishermen, being prevented by our regulations from taking out licenses and using a fishing boat in our waters, induced some British subject to take out the license, and they were thus found fishing in our boats under guise of boat-pullers. It was decided to prevent this abuse the boat-pullers, as well as the fishermen, should take out a permit or license, granted only to British subjects. This permit was granted at a nominal fee, and indeed was not required in the case of Indians. A good deal of friction, however, and difficulty appears to have arisen from the boat-puller's requirement, and in view of the small advantage resulting, the commissioners recommend that it should be abolished.

Hatching of Salmon.

The commissioners cannot too strongly urge that the government extend as far as possible the artificial hatching of salmon and increasing the supply of these valuable fish in the waters north of the Fraser river. At Rivers Inlet, the Naas river and at three or four other points in northern British Columbia, salmon hatcheries should be erected without delay. These waters are distant from the United States boundary, and there is not the same danger of United States fishermen appropriating our fishery resources as is the case in Puget Sound.

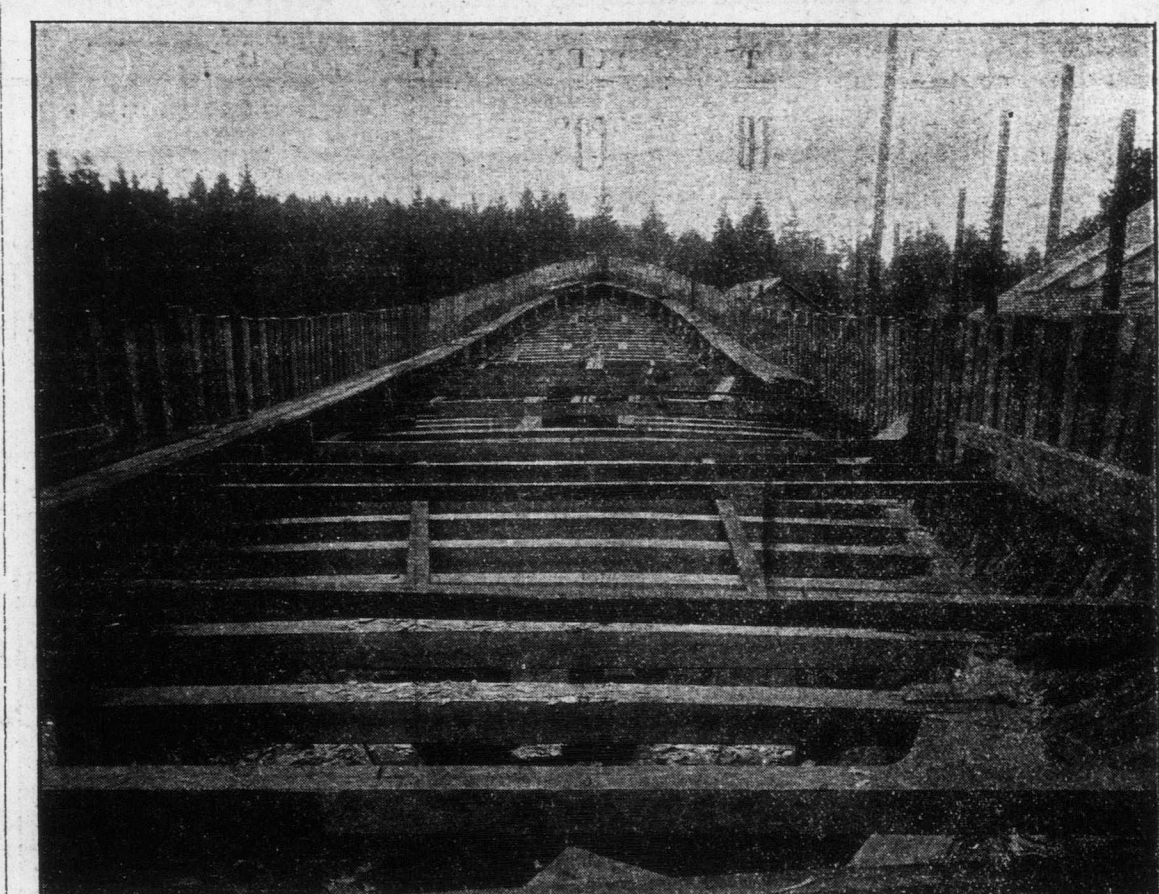
If the minister decides that two or three new hatcheries should be erected immediately, in time for operation next fall, the commissioner of fisheries could be prepared to at once make detailed reports for the guidance of the minister.

In conclusion, the commissioners, while laying before the minister the main points which came up for consideration during the course of the commission, feel that in the case of some of these points, the parties interested in the salmon industry desire that some steps should be taken at once. The United States canners are extending their operations and are doing their utmost to bring the British Columbia salmon industry. This year they are making gigantic efforts to immensely increase their pack of fish, which the minister is aware almost solely consists of Puget Sound and Fraser river salmon; but the fact remains that there are a great number of influential parties in British Columbia who feel that caution and circumspect action is absolutely necessary. No doubt haste might work serious injury, and very deliberate steps on that account would appear to be most justifiable.

Respectfully submitted, E. E. PRINCE, Chairman. RALPH SMITH, GEO RILEY, A. MORRISON.

Major-General Robert S. Baden-Powell, the hero of Mafeking, visited the Military Academy, West Point, on Saturday. A salute was fired in his honor, and after witnessing an exhibition cavalry drill, the general was escorted through the post by the academy band.

IT CURES ALL ORRIBS.—Here are a few names of clergymen of different creeds who are firm believers in Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder to "live up to the preaching" in all it claims. Bishop Sweetman, Rev. Dr. Langtry (Episcopalian); Rev. Dr. Whitrow and Rev. Dr. Chambers (Methodist); and Dr. Newman, all of Toronto, Canada. Copies of their personal letters for the asking, 50 cts. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—105.



Hull of the Princess Beatrice.

The accompanying cuts are from photographs of the hull of the new G. P. N. liner Princess Beatrice, which is under construction at Victoria by Messrs. Buller. It gives a good idea of the extent and capacity of the big vessel which is intended to ply between this port and Vancouver and Skagway.



Hold of the Princess Beatrice.

ALBERNI PETITION. Residents of That District Desire to Have Toronto Lumber Company Kept to Regulations.

A. W. Neill, M. P. P., a few days ago presented a petition in the legislature asking that body to recommend to the government the enforcement of the regulations in connection with the lease of timber limits held by the Toronto & British Columbia Lumber Co. in the Alberni district. The petition is as follows:

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia: The petition of the undersigned sheweth: That whereas the Toronto & British Columbia Lumber Co. hold and have held since 1891, two timber limits in the Alberni district, comprising 40,000 acres, of which the annual rental is now \$5,774:

That whereas in 1898 the company was in arrears on these two limits alone \$17,740, and the government of that date accepted a sum of \$8,723 in full payment:

That whereas the reasons given at that time for not exacting the full sum due were: first, the unsatisfactory nature of the timber industry and small demand for limits; and second, that the company, as a company, were insolvent and little or nothing might have been obtained by suing them, the sum compromised for being paid by individual shareholders not legally liable:

That whereas since 1898 the arrears of rent have been allowed, under successive governments, to accumulate until in April, 1902, they amounted to \$17,747:

That whereas the failure of the company either to operate a mill or develop

in any way these limits, situated as they are in the heart of the district, is a very serious check to the development of the district and to the prosperity of the residents therein:

That whereas the reasons previously given for compromising with the company are not now applicable, as it is obviously an unsound policy to allow an alleged insolvent company to accumulate further indebtedness, and it is a notorious fact that the lumber industry is not now in a depressed condition, but the contrary, and that large limits in the same district have recently changed hands at satisfactory prices:

That whereas the government have recently advertised and offered for sale all land, or even a pre-emptor's interest in land, on which taxes were due the crown, and even in cases where the owners or pre-emptors were only due a few dollars for one year's taxes, it would be entirely in keeping with such a policy for the government to sell the interest of the company in the limits for the arrears of rent, and the government would thereby secure not only the arrears of rent, but also the probability of receiving rent therefor in future, and would greatly benefit all classes of the community by the active opening up and working of these limits.

Therefore, your petitioners humbly beg your honorable body to recommend the government to immediately take steps either to compel the company to fulfill the terms of their leases, or to dispose of the limits in one or more lots to parties ready and able to build and operate a mill or mills on the lands:

And we, your humble petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc. John Best, George H. Bird, John Shirley Richardson and 89 others.

Mrs. Good, of Cowichan, and J. G. Cowan, of Vancouver, are at the Balmoral.

MONEY ARRIVES. Most of the Sewer Loan Has Been Received—Work in Progress.

The city treasurer has received \$175,000 of the money raised under the Sewer Loan By-Law for the extension and improvement of the sewer system. About twenty-five thousand dollars more will complete the sum borrowed. The debentures were purchased almost at par by the Bank of Toronto. They are redeemable in fifty years, and bear interest at four per cent.

In the meantime the work of sewer extension is proceeding briskly. As stated in this paper some time ago the programme provides for the inauguration of the operations in the James Bay district. About fifty men are now employed there, and it is expected that double this number will be engaged in a short time.

The other day a butler cycling towards Nantwich, Eng., was knocked off his machine by a partridge which he disturbed in the road flying into him so swiftly that it broke its neck.

If It's Catarrh, Here is a Cure.

RELIEF IN 10 MINUTES. Too many people daily with catarrh. It strikes one like a thunderclap, develops with a rapidity that no other disease does. Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder is the radical, quick, safe, and pleasant cure that the disease demands. Use the means, prevent its deep-seating and years of distress. Don't dally with catarrh. Agnew's gives relief in 10 minutes.

Dr. Agnew's Ointment cures salt rheum, tetter, eczema. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—105.

WELCH WINNER IN THE EIGHTH ROUND

HE OUTCLASSED HIS RIVAL THROUGHOUT

Was the Aggressor From the Start—Other Bout—Baseball and General Sport.

The glove contest between Mickey Welch, of Australia, and Ike Rubenstein, of California, at the Savoy Friday night resulted in favor of the former, who was declared the winner in the eighth round. A limit of fifteen rounds was agreed upon, but the men were not in the ring very long before it was quite apparent that the contest would be terminated considerably within that time. In fact Rubenstein was outclassed from the very start, and was ready to throw up the sponge in the seventh round. Welch certainly didn't give him much quarter, and had the fight lasted a round longer the chances are the Californian would have been counted out.

The same little mousie hall was crowded even before the preliminaries were announced. Among the interested spectators at the ring side was Sir Fred Carrington, while well-known citizens were in evidence on every hand. The first preliminary was a four-round go between Colie Hill and Mickey O'Toole. Being a preliminary and the incentive for a hard and fast bout lacking, the pair didn't force matters very much, with the possible exception of the second and third rounds, when Colie converted his adversary's face into a target at intervals just to show him what he could do if the business justified. Hill also did some clever dodging.

W. F. Hall refereed the preliminary bouts. The drawy tars, Jimmy Oakley, of the Shearwater, and Tommy Todd, of the flagship, then went at each other in preliminary number two. The rivalry between the pair was quite patent from the commencement. Todd appeared to be in better trim, the other having just returned with his ship from the South, and his time for training has therefore been very brief. Nevertheless, the exhibition was a good one with the honors about even. Both these men fight in splendid style. When a blow is struck by one of them it doesn't lack sincerity or steam. It generally counts, and the referee sees the appearance of a challenge from Geo. Cupman, of the Grafton, to fight Oakley fifteen rounds with Gounce cloves for a stake from \$50 upwards. He wants the event pulled off within three weeks. Oakley promptly accepted the challenge on the condition that he be allowed a month.

The next event was the piece de resistance of the programme—the feather-weight championship contest between Welch and Rubenstein. Mickey, happy as a fish in his native element, appeared in the ring first and smilingly acknowledged the outburst of applause with which he was greeted. He was without as restless as a game cock, and waited with some impatience the appearance of his rival. A brief diversion was afforded by the announcement of George Baker that he would fight the winner. Like a flash Mickey was out of his corner with the reply: "I'll accept that challenge, if I win." He then subsided.

Rubenstein was tardy in arriving. Finally he entered the ring and was cordially received. When stripped for action, it was apparent he lacked the shoulder and arm development of the Australian, and although he is taller his appearance conveyed the impression that he hadn't the other's stamina or aggressiveness. He had neither as the progress of the fight showed. Harry Morton refereed the bout.

When time was called Mickey rushed things, and had Rubenstein on the ropes in short order. As a matter of fact the Australian, fighting from a crouch, crowded the Californian into his corner several times in the first round and sent home a couple of hard ones to his face. He fought with more confidence, was plainly the aggressor, while he appeared to outclass the other in skill and agility. The other landed occasionally and his punches were ineffectual.

In the second round Rubenstein gathered himself together and found Mickey's face several times, but his blows lacked steam. Mickey continued to rush him, and there was a lively interchange in Rubenstein's corner. They were in this territory so often during the fight that the floor got slippery. Rubenstein showed up to better advantage in this round than at any time in the contest, but not once did he succeed in bothering the sharp-eyed Mickey.

In the third round Rubenstein was for a very short time the aggressor. He got Welch to the ropes and received a buff on the jaw. He retaliated, but Mickey returned the compliment with a couple more and missed an upper cut which would have ended the business had it landed. Welch then rushed the Californian to the ropes and put it all over him. In fact, he had things all his own way until time was called. Rubenstein was plainly groggy when he retired to his corner.

The fourth round was a repetition of the third as far as the fortunes of the ring were concerned. Welch did nearly

all the leading and landing and got little in return. Had the Australian pressed his advantage he would have put the other out at this early stage. The fifth, sixth and seventh were all one-sided, especially the latter, when Rubenstein went down twice and took a count. He was willing to throw up the sponge then, but was encouraged to keep going by the shouts of his supporters.

The eighth was a mere formality. Welch rushed his opponent in all directions, and although he received a few gentle taps they didn't affect him. In this round Rubenstein went down for a count. When the ninth was called the Californian expressed himself satisfied that he was bested and the referee declared Welch the victor.

Welch undoubtedly showed up in fine style. Never once did he relax his lightning tactics, violence nor the power of his arm. He possessed all that the other lacked—confidence, speed and stamina. Both weighed in at a trifle over 110, but the Australian looked the heavier, and was evidently the stronger in vim and limb. It was a foregone conclusion from the first few rounds, and it is a pity Welch didn't have a foeman more worthy of his steel.

BASEBALL. THE LOCAL NINE.

The local nine will open their season on Saturday next with the Mount Angel, Oregon, Colgate team as their opponents. The Victorias for the coming season will have an exceptionally strong nine, having been considerably strengthened by the acquisition of Emerson and Chase, of California, both of these players having decided to stay here for the summer and play with the club. Emerson, as is well known, is a pitcher of the best quality and an infielder of considerable ability; Chase has been playing with the Santa Clara College nine and is a splendid infielder, being capable of holding down any infield position, and is also a good batter as well as a splendid base runner. The addition of these two players will give Victoria the strongest team in years.

Holness has been practicing regularly with the team, and from all appearances his arm is just as good as ever, in fact he seems to have more speed than ever before, so with two such pitchers as "Jimmy" and Emerson, and Schwengers and Moore to fall back on, the team will have a splendid staff of pitchers. "Jack" Smith will do the receiving, and if his throwing in the practice is any criterion, not many bases will be stolen by the opposing batters this season. In the infield, Rither, McConnell, Chase, Emerson, Haynes, and, as soon as his injured knee mends, Schwenger will look after things; while in the outfield, Burnes, Goward, Potts and Moore will be available to look after the high ones. This gives the team twelve players to pick from, so that there will be no reason for not having a full and strong team in the field at any time during the season.

Work on the grounds has practically been completed, and it is safe to say that no place on the Coast has as good a diamond and outfield as Victoria's. Gardner Mann is deserving of considerable credit for the splendid work done by himself and his assistants in regrading and resodding the diamond, which is now a perfect model of what a baseball diamond should be. The job of resodding is undoubtedly the largest of its kind that has ever been done here, if not in the province, no less than 1,500 square yards of new sod having been required to cover the infield. The outfield also has received considerable attention, having been gone over with a very heavy roller and made as level as possible without entirely regrading it. The grand stand has been looked after as well, and although the alterations are but slight they will add quite a bit to the comfort of the patrons.

THE KENNEL. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Victoria Kennel Club was held Friday evening in the Pioneer hall, there being a large attendance. The first business was the reading of the report of the secretary-treasurer, T. P. McConnell. This showed a balance of \$233.98 after all expenses had been paid, which was considered very satisfactory by the members. The balance last year was about \$353, but this year's decrease is accounted for through the fact that the expenses were \$390 more than last year. The financial report is in detail follows:

Receipts. Balance on hand \$ 272 98 Members' dues 219 00 Entry fees 547 93 Gate receipts 322 75 Total receipts \$1,252 58

Expenditures. Pacific Kennel League check \$ 10 00 Rent of hall and storage room 55 00 Judges' 209 00 Printing and advertising 21 00 Prize money 176 50 Wages 100 00 Turner's expenses to Vancouver 25 00 Miscellaneous expenses 84 10 Total expenditure \$ 921 00

Balance on hand \$ 333 98 It was decided that the club should correspond with the fanciers of Duncan asking them to hold their show under the auspices of the Pacific Kennel League or the Canadian Kennel Club rules, so that the Victoria fanciers could give them every possible support.

Before the close of the meeting votes of thanks were tendered the merchants of the city for their support and assistance, and also T. P. McConnell, the secretary, and Mr. Turner for their hard and faithful work in connection with the recent show.

NEW SING SUITS, \$8, 10, 12 and 15. 200 Pair New Trousers Just in. B. WILLIAMS & CO.