

## The Fraser River Salmon Situation: A Reclamation Project.

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THE sockeye-salmon fishery of the Fraser River system was formerly the world's greatest salmon fishery. The run of salmon in those waters was greater every fourth year than in any other waters. This fishery is no longer a great fishery. A discriminating study of the significant facts in the development and decline of this fishery demonstrates the necessity of dealing with them at once in an international way. These facts have been fully established and are no longer questioned, and should be more generally understood.

The restoration of the sockeye-salmon fishery of the Fraser River system is the greatest, and at the same time the least expensive, reclamation project in which Canada and the United States can jointly engage, and if adequate measures are adopted its success is certain.

It is the purpose of this paper to briefly set forth what the sockeye-salmon fishery of the Fraser River system was, what it is to-day, and what it may again become by judicious conservation.

The prominent facts in the history of the sockeye fishery may be stated as follows:—

(1.) The waters of the Fraser River system as defined in the treaty between Great Britain and the United States include all the fishing waters in the Province of British Columbia and in the State of Washington which are frequented by sockeye salmon in their migration from the Pacific Ocean to the spawning-beds of the Fraser River basin. They include Juan de Fuca, Rosario, and Haro Straits, and the other American estuary waters leading into the Gulf of Georgia, and the waters of that gulf as well as the channels of the Fraser River up to Mission Bridge, in British Columbia.

(2.) Fishing for sockeye began commercially in the channels of the Fraser in British Columbia in 1876. It was extended to the waters of the Gulf of Georgia immediately outside the mouths of the river in 1890. Fishing for sockeye began in the State of Washington waters in 1891, with the installation of traps in the vicinity of Point Roberts. Traps became an important factor in 1897. Purse-nets came into use in American waters in 1901 and in recent years have greatly increased in number. During the period of 1900 to 1918, when