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Williams Lake Agency

Numbering 1128 Indians. The sockeye catch is said by the Agent to be 17,200 per year. If such is the case this Agency should be considered more seriously in regard to sockeye fishing.

A limited supply of coast-dried salmon is being sent for some of the indigent Indians by way of experiment. Distances are reported to be too great and transportation costs too heavy to justify a general distribution of coast salmon to take the place of the sockeye fish. And while such supply, if sent, might modify the extent to which sockeye are taken it would take time to eliminate interference by Indians.

These Indians are not heavy fish eaters, but prefer the food of white people. The Agent says that in some years few fish are caught; also that the Indians would have to be re-educated to the use of fish for food generally.

Lytton Agency

Approximately 2000 of the sockeye variety of salmon are taken annually by these Indians, numbering 1983. Other fish taken by them amounts approximately to 9400 of the spring, coho, chum and steelhead varieties. Their use of sockeye therefore is not disturbing. They eat in fresh condition whatever sockeye is taken as they say it does not cure well, which is also the experience of the coast Indians who dry and cure cheaper and different species of salmon.

New Westminster Agency

Since this Agency is also mentioned in Mr. Ditchburn's report, I am sending herewith copy of a letter dated December 7th, 1932, in which it is pointed out that a questionnaire is not necessary since the Indians are well taken care of as to their supply of fish by the Fisheries Department under their regulations and permit system, also through the medium of hatcheries.

In view of the foregoing I feel that any expansion of efforts to be exerted at the expense of this Department with a view to assisting the Fisheries Department to conserve sockeye salmon should be limited to the supplying where reasonably possible of coast-dried fish in such manner and to such extent as to meet the demands of indigent and possibly other Indians where such fish can be obtained in good condition and distributed economically to the Interior Indians through their Indian Agents, the latter to decide what quantities of fish are necessary and at what times the same should be sent.

It is further considered that the Indians cannot reasonably be blamed for any depletion of salmon of the sockeye variety or any other variety of salmon, the statistics of salmon catches for the past twenty years having been examined which indicate that the salmon pack in British Columbia increased between the years 1920 and 1930 from 1,187,616 cases to 2,221,619 cases, this pack embracing Sockeye, Pinks, Chums and others; while the catch of sockeye during the same period varied between a low pack of 163,914 cases in 1921 and a high pack in 1930 of 477,675 cases.

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