

there is a consequent loss of many thousands of eggs. The fish itself contains so many eggs which are not all ripe at the same time, and it will lay only so many in an hour or in a day, for instance, if left to its own resources.

Hon. Mr. KING: Could the present situation be overcome?

Mr. REID: I doubt that it could be overcome. Of course, I am only giving my private views. It is a debatable question whether the amount spent on propagation of salmon is warranted by the results.

Coming down to the discussion of the treaty, I agree with Senator Taylor that there are many clauses in it which perhaps go a little too far. And, as he has pointed out with respect to Article VII, some of it is not altogether correct. But viewing the situation as I do out there, I am frank to say that the most desirable thing from the fishermen's point of view is to be placed on a footing of equal treatment with regard to the catch of fish across the line.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you mean to have an equal share in the amount caught?

Mr. REID: Yes. Not over 30 per cent of the fish accrues to the Canadians.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Do the fishermen feel that under the treaty they would get this fifty-fifty division?

Mr. REID: I would have to say they do. And in my deliberations with them last year the opinion was freely expressed that if the treaty was not going to be signed by the United States interests, they would favour throwing the Fraser river open entirely. I am giving you the viewpoint of the fishermen, not of myself. They say if we are not going to get a fair proportion of the catch, let us fish the Fraser. And they keep that attitude, owing to the fact that the United States in fishing does not impose the same restrictive measures as we do in Canada. For instance, we have certain closed seasons, and during those closed seasons—Mr. Found can correct me if I am wrong—their traps are operating and their seines are operating at the same time. Of course, they shut down when we are doing the same. But it was very noticeable that when they did shut down for any period, the catch was very much greater on our side of the line.

Now, what I think is more hurtful at the present time to fishermen on the Fraser is the operating of seines. Might I give my opinion on that?

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Are you referring to American or Canadian seines?

Mr. REID: To both Canadian and American seines.

The Department allowed Canadian seines to operate last fall in the month of the Fraser River. They operated in the shallow and brackish water, that is, where the fresh water meets the salt. It was disastrous to our fishermen. In ordinary seasons the fishermen up the river were taking anywhere from 100 to 500 fish a day, that is of the inferior variety called pinks. During the past season when the seines were allowed to operate their catches dropped to 5, 10 and 15 per day. Some varieties of fish, like the spring salmon, they did not get at all. In previous years they were able to pick up spring salmon, which is a higher priced fish and helped out the lower priced, but last fall when seines were allowed to operate to the number of sixty, they practically cut off the fish entirely.

Other countries which have had to deal with seines have found to their loss that when seines and trawls and traps—particularly seines, were being allowed to be used, it not only depleted the fish, but it depleted the spawning beds or the feeding ground of the fish, because in the shallow waters the seine interfered with the breeding grounds. That has been the experience of the Old Country from the information given me.

I should say that if seining was allowed to be carried on, especially in the shallower waters, it would not be long before there were very little fish left.