

Mr. IRVING: We have a cannery in which we have packed 137,000 cases, as much as the whole pack of the Fraser river this year.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Are there any other British or Canadian canneries on the American side still, for instance, the B.C. Packers?

Mr. IRVING: Yes, they control at Pt. Roberts. Mr. Parker owned it at one time.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Are there any other Canadian concerns operating on the American side?

Mr. IRVING: Mr. Winch had a cannery at Anacortes built in the same year. Mr. Winch and Mr. Todd were in it, and Mr. Welch, a Vancouver man, who has become a naturalized citizen of the United States, built one at Bellingham and is operating still.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you know how many canneries there are on the American side?

Mr. IRVING: I could get the number for you; I cannot give it offhand. The total pack of Alaska this year is over 4,500,000 cases, of which 2,300,000 cases are of Red fish.

The CHAIRMAN: We were discussing a few moments ago the matter of control by the British Columbia Government. What have you to say about that? Do you believe that there should be joint control on the part of the Provincial and Dominion Governments, or that there should be only Federal control of the British Columbia fisheries?

Mr. IRVING: I think the Federal control is probably alright if there was a minister charged with the duty of looking after the fisheries alone. I do not think that the salmon fisheries of British Columbia have received in the past quite sufficient attention. I have always been largely in favour of having an advisory board on the coast there. As you know, it is almost proverbial that any company managed by directors sitting in London and operating in Canada usually make a failure of their business. Now to a certain extent, the same argument might prevail here. At this distance from the coast it is exceedingly difficult for the minister, no matter how good his intentions may be, to keep in close touch with all those numerous details. I think that one of the great dangers that confront us all just now, and that is of particular importance to this committee, is the question of the conservation of the salmon supply in the northern waters. The depletion of the Fraser river is very largely blamed on the Americans, and I think they must accept a great part of the blame, although there has been over fishing on our side as well. But in the north, in those rivers that are entirely within the control of the Dominion authorities, I think it is most desirable that every effort should be made to conserve the fish supply, and it can undoubtedly be done, because those waters are not interfered with by American operations.

Mr. McQUARRIE: You are in favour of a local board for British Columbia?

Mr. IRVING: I am strongly in favour of it.

Mr. McQUARRIE: What would be the powers of that board? Would they be merely advisory, or would they have some administrative powers?

Mr. IRVING: They would have to have considerable power to be of real service. I think their recommendations would have to be acted upon pretty quickly.

Mr. NEILL: Are you expressing your own views or the views of a combination of canners? I ask this because we had a canner from British Columbia the other day and he was completely opposed to that.

Mr. IRVING: I am expressing my own views.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Do you know what the views of the Association are?

Mr. IRVING: I know that on many occasions when the matter was discussed they have been in favour of that.

[Mr. H. Bell Irving.]