

system, signed at Washington on the 26th May, 1930, it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve of a declaration being made on the part of Canada to the effect that the provisions of the convention may be administered upon the following understandings:

(1) That the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission shall have no power to authorize any type of fishing gear contrary to the laws of the State of Washington or the Dominion of Canada;

(2) That the commission shall not promulgate or enforce regulations until the scientific investigations provided for in the convention have been made, covering two cycles of sockeye salmon runs, or eight years; and

(3) That the commission shall set up an advisory committee composed of five persons from each country who shall be representatives of the various branches of the industry (purse seine, gill net, troll, sport fishing, and one other), which advisory committee shall be invited to all non-executive meetings of the commission and shall be given full opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed orders, regulations or recommendations;

and that this House do approve of the same; provided that nothing in this resolution contained shall be deemed to prevent the Governor in Council from exercising at any time any authority in him vested to make effective orders or regulations duly adopted by the said commission.

Honourable senators will notice that these understandings, which were added to the convention when it was adopted by the Senate of the United States, give the impression that the regulations cannot come into force until eight years from the time when the convention was adopted or ratified. That may be so. Yet it is hoped that if the commission is at last set up it may be able, before the eight years have expired, to arrive at some resolutions or conclusions by which the Governments of the United States and of Canada will abide. I know that to quite a number of Canadians it appears to be an unsatisfactory state of affairs that after waiting seven years we should have to wait eight years more. However, the Government believes that this is a step forward and one which will have to be taken, and that since we have waited seven years for ratification of the convention by the United States we may feel it is opportune and wise to adopt the understandings which I have just read. As I have said, it is hoped that eight years may not pass before some decisions are arrived at or some regulations proposed which will make the convention effective.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: I understand the Government is desirous, for adequate reasons, that the resolution be adopted tonight. Otherwise I should have liked to see the matter laid over until the honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Taylor) was in his seat. As everyone knows,

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND:

he has given a great deal of attention and time to the whole subject of sockeye salmon production and control, and this session has had on the Order Paper a series of questions, to which I believe answers were recently given.

As the honourable leader of the House has intimated, the United States and Canada have been trying for a long term of years to settle on some method of preserving and protecting the sockeye salmon fisheries. Depredations that were going on had the effect of reducing the supply to a small fraction of its former abundance. Negotiations which had lasted for years were concluded in the early part of 1930, when representatives of the two countries arrived at terms embodied in the present convention. This convention, of course, had to receive assent by the United States, and though possibly assent by the Parliament of Canada was not legally necessary there was, according to our practice, a submission to us as well. Opinion was expressed at that time that before Parliament gave its approval it would be better to wait for assent by the American Senate. That course was not taken because, if my memory is correct, there was assurance, considered to be dependable, that that assent would be given. However, disappointment followed—for by no means the first time. The Senate failed to approve, and year after year has passed without any control at all being exercised over the fisheries. Evils of the former state of affairs simply continued, until recently the American Senate at last adopted the convention, subject to the three understandings, as they are described. They are really reservations.

In my judgment these reservations virtually cancel the treaty. What do they provide? They provide, first of all, that no regulations shall be agreed upon by the two countries' representatives under the terms of the convention until a sufficient time has passed to enable two runs of sockeye salmon to come and go. As we all are aware, two runs require eight years.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That is so.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: And am I correct in saying that the treaty has only fifteen years to run from the date of ratification?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: So there would be only seven years left after the first regulations could be promulgated. Well, that is pretty serious. There will be another eight years without any control at all, and then there will remain a period of only seven years in which the treaty can have effect.