

*Supply—Fisheries*

We are therefore faced with trying to obtain a controlled fishery and control over the fishing operations. There are four ways that can be done. The first and most obvious is licence limitation. We have a limited fishery. We should limit the licences. Today the only limit is that the holder of the licence must be a British subject. This year we are going to change that to a Canadian citizen. Then British subjects who are not yet Canadian citizens will be unable to get a fishing licence. But that is only scratching the problem. Licence limitation means that we will quickly get rid of two groups who are nuisances. One is the sport fisherman in British Columbia who takes out a commercial licence in order to get by the catch limit. The catch limit is six. He can catch 300 or 400 with a commercial licence. The other one is the part-time fisherman who at the time of the big run on the Fraser river gets a boat, a couple of hundred feet of net, goes down there and gets a good share of the fish which properly belong to the man who fishes the year round and the years round.

The objection to licence limitation is that those who have a licence are in preferred positions. The licences which cost only a dollar become things of value. The real worry is this question: How do young men who want to begin in the fisheries get a licence? The best source of fishermen, of course, is from among the sons of men in the business. This year we are going to make a thorough study of the situation. The second way to limit the catch is by means of gear limitation, or limitation on the size of the gear or on the type of the gear. We have eliminated traps in all but one area at Sooke. We have made restrictions on the size of gill nets, on the size of seines, on the size of mesh and the areas that they can fish in. In general, in order to prevent a tremendous drop in the fish population, we want to get the fishermen as far away from the spawning areas as we can. On the Nass river, on the Skeena river and Rivers inlet, we have constantly pushed the boundary further and further out to sea to give the fish a better chance to get in and spawn.

Then, the last thing, and the thing we use most of all, is season limitation, both a long closed season and then weekly closures. We have had forty-eight hour, seventy-two hour, ninety-six hour closures, four-day closures, in a week. More and more gear just means a five-day closure or a six-day closure, and the fishery is going to become more and more uneconomic because the people cannot expect to make a living with expensive equipment when just working one day in the week.

During this next year there is no question the most important matter facing our department on the west coast is to attack this problem of trying to match fishermen and fishing gear with the limited fishery which we have under scientific control. There is one special problem which has been mentioned by several members, the hon. member for Vancouver East, the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond, the hon. member for New Westminster, the matter of the closure of the upper Fraser which I announced when I was speaking to the fishermen's union in Vancouver. For the benefit of those non-fishing members who are kind enough to listen to us fishermen during our one day in court, let me explain the movement of fish in the salmon streams, especially the Fraser.

We have six kinds of salmon. There is the sockeye salmon, a little salmon of five or six pounds which is our richest fish and is all canned. Then we have the spring salmon, with red and white flesh, our largest species, the biggest one on record being 121 pounds. Then there is the coho salmon. The last two salmon take bait. The others do not take bait. Then we have the pink salmon and the chum salmon. These latter salmon are just two-year salmon. They go down the river, out to sea, are lost and come back again in two years. The other salmon are four-year salmon. The salmon are lost out in the Pacific and then they return almost like clockwork.

Our scientists can pretty well forecast when they will first turn up off the south end of Vancouver island. They sweep around through Puget sound on the American side, then up into the gulf of Georgia on our side and mill around the mouth of the Fraser river. They start up the Fraser river and by some uncanny instinct they go to the little creek where they were born. It may be 500 or 600 miles up but they are able to find it by some device that our scientists have as yet been unable to detect.

The sockeye salmon comes in first. It is our finest salmon. It is a very rich fish. In its years in the Pacific it has stored oil in its body, but the moment all these fish hit fresh water they stop feeding. From then on they are living on their own bodies, which means they are wasting. The sockeye has the farthest to go and it is in there first. When it comes in the river it is still in pretty good shape. However, the two late runs, the pink and the chum salmon, are different. They are coarser fish. The pink salmon weighs around five pounds and the chum possibly ten pounds. Most of them spawn very close to the mouth of the Fraser. By the time they