

Vancouver, in cooperation with local officers, arranged to have some local coastal Indians procure surplus pink and chum salmon in streams adjoining their reserves, cure them in the accustomed manner, and provide them at a small charge per fish to the Indian Agent for distribution to interior Indians. The reports received were encouraging. The plan had a further feature, it was understood, to commend it; namely, that the money paid out by your Department really accomplished two purposes-- firstly, the provision of an acceptable food supply to the interior Indians, and secondly, the furnishing of the coastal Indians with money in payment for their services in making this supply available and thus possibly reducing their dependency on your Department. Then, of course, from the standpoint of this Department there was prospect that the plan would mean a lesser drain on the sockeye supplies, that reach the spawning grounds, so badly in need of every possible protection.

It was in this light, my letter of October 27th last was sent to you. No immediate drastic interference with the customs of the Indians was intended, but it was and is still felt that the plan holds promise of something decidedly worth while, if care is taken in developing it. Further evidence of the acceptability of the substitute is afforded in the results of last fall's continuation of the experiment. A wider distribution was effected than it was expected would be made, although it is interesting to have the general feeling of the Indians throughout the Province as to their reaction to the substitute. It is felt that for the time being, at least, furtherance of the plan might be restricted to supplying Indians at headwaters of the Fraser, where the situation, from the standpoint of scarcity of sockeye salmon reaching the spawning grounds, is most acute.

There was one statement in Mr. Perry's letter to which it is thought desirable to refer. The fourth paragraph on page 7 suggest that both he and Inspector Pragnell have the understanding that Whites as well as Indians have the privilege of taking salmon for food purposes from the spawning grounds and upper reaches of streams. Whites have absolutely no privileges to so take salmon, and it is unlawful for them to do so. In the commercial fishing areas, of course, Indian and White fishermen operate under the same Regulations, except in the case of salmon drag-seining, which is reserved exclusively for Indian fishermen.

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