

he withdrew it on the promise that the minister would look into the matter. The minister did so, and he changed the area in 1937, moving the line right down near the boundary line. It just left a strip two miles north of the boundary line. That may seem a good deal, but seines take a great deal of water to operate in. They are liable to drift and so require a great deal of water. The water down there, I say without fear of contradiction, is clear. It cannot be gill netted; it never has been successfully gill netted; it never will be; that is, that area close to the line, two miles north of the line. That is what makes the difference.

Moreover, they catch a very good quality of fish there. Seines are only allowed in that limited area outside the scope of the gill netters. All that muddy water for gill netters is preserved for them. It is only in the clear water that the seines are allowed to operate now.

In 1938 seines took 200,000 sockeye, and the gill netters considerably over a million. The gill netters had a grievance in 1933, and I voted to remedy that grievance, and would do so again. But the grievance has been remedied, and an arrangement made that is fair to all parties.

Therefore I oppose this bill, first, because it gives a specious argument, not a sound one, but still an argument, to those who wish to continue to use traps. Second, there is no hardship done to the gill netters. The present arrangements have been in operation for two years in this reduced area, and no figures have been given to substantiate any complaint; in fact, no complaint has been made. Third, it is unfair to allow the seiners to operate only in No. 2 and No. 3 districts throughout the province, compel our gill netters and trollers in those two districts to carry the burden of the seines for 365 days, and begrudge us the temporary relief that would be afforded by No. 1 district carrying them for ten or fifteen days, and that operating on the average only every other year. Therefore I am against the bill.

Mr. OLOF HANSON (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill for several reasons. First of all, I have had information from the fishermen in the area concerning the conditions, and, second, I think the explanation that has been given in support of the bill warrants me in supporting it.

There were no seines in the Fraser river prior to 1933. The gill net fishermen developed the area by gill net fishing. The gill net

fishermen establish themselves in and about the mouth of the Fraser river.

In 1933, by order in council, purse seine fishing was allowed in that area. At that time there were approximately three thousand gill net fishermen operating in the mouth of the Fraser river. The number of seiners increased, and last year there were 105 boats fishing in that area, employing perhaps 700 men. There were also between two and three thousand gill net fishermen, and it is difficult for them to make a living in competition with seine fishing.

WAYS AND MEANS

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

Motion (Mr. Dunning) agreed to and the house went into committee of ways and means, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

On schedule 1:

Customs tariff—588a. Gas for heating, cooking or illuminating, imported by pipe line: 3 cents per one thousand cubic feet.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—589. Charcoal made from wood: \$4 per ton.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—597. Pianofortes and organs: 25 per cent.

Mr. WERMENLINGER: I should like to say a few words on this particular item dealing with pianofortes and organs. Although the piano industry is not large, it is an important industry in this dominion and should be given consideration. From the information I have gathered I am convinced that if this item goes through, we shall be loaded up and flooded with second-hand instruments from the United States. And that will happen at a bad time. This industry suffered during the depression from the competition of other lines of household utilities invented during the last decade. Recently, through its own efforts and initiative, the industry has been recuperating from a long slump. I should like to review briefly the history of the tinkering with the tariff on this line of goods. In 1931, after many years of dumping into this country of pianos from the United States, from the Bowery and the Bronx of New York where they were used to accompany the singing of "The Sidewalks of New York" in the gay nineties, there was established a value for duty—

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Was that the first of the tinkering the hon. member complains about?