

*By Mr. Ryan:*

Q. I understood Mr. Neill to say that you took out seven trap licences and that you did not operate the seven traps, but only four or five. Are the fishermen allowed to purse seine in the waters in which you have a licence to trap; you do not use those waters?—A. They are allowed to fish all around there, except there is a provision of 600 feet from the trap. That is merely to prevent our gear from being run into by accident.

Q. Am I right in thinking that they can fish in the waters for which you have a licence if you do not put the traps down?—A. They can fish if we do.

Q. Can they go into those waters where you have your licence for traps?—A. Absolutely. I will answer your question in this way: We know, as a matter of fact, that the purse seines do catch large quantities of fish at Puget Sound. That is true, is it not, Mr. Neill?

Mr. NEILL: Yes.

The WITNESS: Very well. If the purse seines cannot operate at Sooke where 4 traps are located, how can the purse seines catch a large volume of fish at Puget Sound where you have got 219 traps?

Mr. NEILL: I will give you the answer to that, and it is on record. The reason is this: Our law is different from that on the American side. The Americans set out these 219 traps like that (indicating) and the seines are allowed to operate right into the mouths of them; the traps are really an aid to the seiners over there, because the lead catches the fish, holds them temporarily and the seiner comes along and can go within three feet of them. Ours do not do that. They cannot do it. Our law makes the provision by which you must keep 200 fathoms away from the traps. That means you cannot do that. That is the reason why it is profitable to use purse seines on the American side and impossible to use them on our side.

Mr. TOMLINSON: If you take out seven licences, no purse seiner can fish where those seven licences are situated, within 200 fathoms of them, as you say.

Mr. NEILL: Only if they are operated.

Mr. TOMLINSON: Only if they are operated?

Mr. MOYER: Yes.

Mr. PELLETIER: Your statement that they took licences out to stop the purse seiners but did not stop the traps is not quite correct.

Mr. NEILL: Not the purse seines; to stop any other traps getting in.

Mr. PELLETIER: But the purse seines can go on?

Mr. NEILL: Yes. The Canadian Government would allow anyone to operate there but they do not for the reason that these people have got all the available good sites.

The WITNESS: The only provision is 100 fathoms.

Mr. GREEN: Do you mean to say there are no sites except within the 10 mile area?

Mr. NEILL: Not suitable ones. I will tell you about that. I was in British Columbia as a young man in the local legislature when this question of traps was introduced. They had to get the support of the provincial government, as they had to get a foreshore lease, so that it really depended on the provincial government. If you did not get a foreshore lease, you could not get a licence from the dominion. We had one of these political cataclysms that take place in British Columbia, and the government had a very slim majority. My next desk neighbour said, "Say, if we go in and support the government, we can get a fish trap site." I said, "No, I was not going to." He said, "Well, I am going to do it." A lot of them got fish trap sites and licences, and most of them