

Mr. IRVING: Yes, my memory does not go very far.

Mr. McQUARRIE: If that is so, then the removal of the restrictions has not affected the situation at all because no canneries have been built.

Mr. STORK: It is not only a question of having the right to build canneries. You have to go to the banks to get the money and to-day you cannot get a dollar from any of the banks in British Columbia, so that the prohibition is still operating. There has really been no change whatever in that respect.

Mr. IRVING: I would like to make this point: It has always been manifest to everybody that the canneries have been through the mill on various occasions as you know, many of you, who have been identified with British Columbia. You know that at the time of the formation of the British Columbia Packers' Association a number of canneries were in the hands of the bank. It was to save the cannery owners, many of them, from bankruptcy that the British Columbia Packers' Association, was formed largely by the encouragement of the Bank of Commerce and the Bank of Montreal, that was a combination of cannery owners to cheapen production and to co-operate for economic management. They did so. They closed a number of their canneries and operated the best ones. The opportunity was taken by the new combination to put in complete new appliances. You can see how it carried out the idea which was foremost in the minds of that consolidation of cannery owners. The same thing would happen now exactly, if there is no encouragement for a combination for economic production, unless there is some restriction, unless the Government made some restriction with regard to the supply of raw material.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Would you suggest now that the number of cannery licenses be decreased?

Mr. IRVING: I should say that it would be a very wise provision.

Mr. McQUARRIE: How would you work that out?

Mr. IRVING: That is a matter that I will leave to you.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I am trying to get your ideas.

Mr. IRVING: That is asking too much.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I do not think so; I think you should be prepared to give us your ideas.

Mr. IRVING: I think it is not beyond the intelligence of this Committee to devise means that would be fair to all concerned. But I quite agree that that idea would be a most desirable thing, for undoubtedly there are three or four canneries for everyone that should be there.

Mr. McQUARRIE: It is not my idea; I am simply asking you the question. Another thing, have you in recent years operated any canneries on the Fraser river?

Mr. IRVING: Last year we did operate one cannery in a small way, the Phoenix Cannery.

Mr. McQUARRIE: That was last year.

Mr. IRVING: We did.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Previous to that time did you operate any?

Mr. IRVING: All our white canneries were closed.

Mr. McQUARRIE: For how many years?

Mr. IRVING: Two or three years. We operated our big cannery at Anacortes last year, because there was a run of big salmon last year. But we are closing it this year.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Where is that?

Mr. IRVING: On the American side.

Mr. McQUARRIE: You have canneries there still?

[Mr. H. Bell Irving.]