

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE,

WEDNESDAY, June 6, 1934.

The Special Committee on Sealing and Fishery Interests in Pacific Waters met this day at 9.30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Horsey in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Poole, the Committee are desirous of hearing from you in regard to sporting fish, their propagation in various streams and lakes, and the resultant benefit in tourist traffic.

Mr. E. G. POOLE (Fish and Game Representative, Canadian National Railways): Sir, I am connected with the development by the Canadian National Railways of a type of tourist travel interested in fishing, hunting and canoe trips to our unoccupied or isolated territory.

The CHAIRMAN: How long have you been with the Canadian National Railways as Fish and Game Representative?

Mr. POOLE: It will be eleven years by the end of July.

The CHAIRMAN: We are specifically interested in the propagation of sport fish. Have you a statement to give the Committee in this regard?

Mr. POOLE: I have not prepared a statement, sir, because I did not know exactly what you might want. I might say that we have had a unique development of game fish in Jasper Park. You may have seen reports about it.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: I gave the Committee photographs and Mr. Longstaffe's report on Maligne and the other lakes which you handed to me.

Mr. POOLE: Then you are more or less familiar with this development.

To get down to the value of the planting of this type of fish, last year, as you all know, was not a good tourist year. The fishing has been opened up only since 1932. Yet we had in this particular section of Jasper Park last year 452 non-resident fishermen and 141 resident fishermen. There were 4,809 trout caught, of a total weight of 7,421 pounds. This makes approximately an average weight of about 1½ pounds per trout. You gentlemen who are fishermen know that that is pretty fair fishing. That is the record in spite of it being a very poor tourist year.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: You say, Mr. Poole, that 452 outside tourists came there particularly for fishing?

Mr. POOLE: They went right in there for fishing.

Hon. Mr. KING: Did they come from great distances?

Mr. POOLE: Yes, we have had them from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Alabama, Virginia, New York, Philadelphia—spread pretty well over the United States.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Have you made a calculation of what those fishermen expended from the time they entered Canada until they left in the way of railway fares, hotels, and so on?

Hon. Mr. McCORMICK: A number of those lakes had no fish until they were seeded.

Mr. POOLE: No, there was no fish life in them whatever. Mr. Rodd can explain that better than I can. As I say, there was no fish life whatever in these lakes. There are two types of non-resident fishermen—what you might