

*By Mr. Moyer:*

Q. Could you do it by seines in that vicinity?—A. No.

Q. Will you explain why?—A. Because the waters are not suitable for seining.

Q. Explain why they are not suitable?—A. The fish during the time they are travelling through these straits do not school up. They do school up, as I pointed out a few moments ago by the cape over off Swiftsure banks off Cape Flattery and near Neah Bay; but it appears from the time they enter the straits here that they are travelling quite rapidly and they do not appear to school up so as to make themselves evident to the purse seiners so that they could locate a body of fish that would make it profitable for them to set their seines and to take them.

Q. As a matter of fact, is there anything to prevent the purse seiners from taking them there?—A. No, no. They are there repeatedly, and they have tried it around our traps.

Mr. NEILL: That is not fair. I will ask this question. There is nothing, he says, to prevent the purse seiners taking them, but the instinct of the fish is the same as that of you or I. If we are driving a car and come to a right turn we will turn right. These fish come along this shore and they hug the shore, and this outfit has got all the available trap sites located, taken possession of, and that is why they take out licences for seven or eight traps and use only three or four—they want to prevent anyone else coming in. The traps are located at the strategic point where the fish come around the corner. It is no use saying that the seiners could catch them over here, because they do not run here.

Mr. MACNICOL: Do they ever cross over to the American side?

Mr. NEILL: Then they cross over to the American side; and let me tell you that they are aided to go over to the American side due to the fact that these things are stuck out like this. The natural run after they are passed here is to go over there.

Mr. MACNICOL: How many traps are in operation on the American side?

Mr. NEILL: 219 in 1933 and 1934.

Mr. MACNICOL: I thought I asked a foolish question a while ago, but it appears to me that the Canadians are very slack if the Americans have 219 traps and we have only been having four or five traps. The Americans are getting our fish.

Mr. REID: It has been found—at least on the American side—that it costs just as much by trap as it does by the gill net fishermen, only that they are caught in larger numbers and more quickly, and our country has taken the idea of the greatest good to the greatest number and have allowed more fishermen to be engaged in the occupation rather than to put a few traps into operation and do away with the labour of fishermen. It has been proven that it costs as much by the trap only they catch them quicker.

Mr. TAYLOR: With regard to the statement made by Mr. Neill that these traps cause the fish to go over to the American side and that if the traps were not there the purse seiners would have an excellent chance for fishing there, how is it that only two per cent of the catch is taken by the traps?

Mr. NEILL: The seines cannot work there because all the suitable places are monopolized by the traps.

Mr. TAYLOR: If the traps are only catching two per cent why not take 100 per cent? You say they hug the coast, and the traps are put out to intercept them on their way. Why don't they catch 100 per cent? The strait is fifteen miles wide. Mr. Goodrich was, apparently, stating a fact when he said that his traps only caught the fringe of the run.

[Mr. Chas. F. Goodrich.]