

Mr. FOUND: We know that when the fishing industry began in 1896 there were three comparatively small years as against one big year. You will see that there is more of a problem than that of restriction. You have to get spawning beds and get your fish there before we can bring the river back to a four year big run.

Mr. DICKIE: Can you explain how the fish reach the Fraser river?

The CHAIRMAN: With regard to the conservation of the fish supply, in case the Federal Government should make an arrangement with the American Government to have a close season do you, being largely interested in the business, think it would be a good idea to have a close season for a number of years?

Mr. IRVING: Absolutely, I have advocated it for many years, as far back as ten years ago. I am strongly in favour of an entire shutting down.

Mr. MACLEAN (Prince): Would it stand a shorter open season now?

Mr. IRVING: I think that is a half-measure, which would be quite inadequate to cope with the situation. The first effort that was made to improve the Fraser river fishing was with the view of bringing the lean years up to a parity with the good years. In the very early days, when I was first identified with the business, there was a very good year, then a pretty good year, and then two poor years. The first idea was to stop the fishing during those lean years so as to bring up results, and so that they would have a fairly level or even supply of fish all the time. However, that fell through. No arrangement could be made with our friends, the Americans, and the whole thing has fallen through. I think it is most desirable that efforts should be renewed, and that steps should again be taken to come to some understanding in the interests of all concerned.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Before you leave the question of cannery licenses, do you know when the restriction on the issuance of cannery licenses was first removed, in what year? Was it in 1919?

Mr. FOUND: After the season of 1919.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Since that time, how many canneries have been constructed?

Mr. IRVING: I cannot tell you—a whole lot.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Since 1920?

Mr. IRVING: Yes, there have been several; I should say quite half a dozen.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I mean new ones?

Mr. IRVING: Early in 1917—I am quoting from the Evans Report—"Early in 1917 notice was given that beginning with 1918 all restrictions as to the number of cannery licenses would be removed."

Mr. McQUARRIE: After the season of 1919 the restrictions were removed?

Mr. IRVING: Yes.

Mr. McQUARRIE: So far as I am aware, no canneries have been constructed since that time?

Mr. IRVING: Not on the Fraser river.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Or at any place in British Columbia?

Mr. IRVING: Perhaps Mr. Found can tell you?

Mr. FOUND: I don't think so, not since 1919.

Mr. IRVING: There was one at Portland Inlet.

Mr. McQUARRIE: That was in 1918.

Mr. IRVING: Time passes so quickly that it is difficult to remember. I thought it was more recent. There is a company on the Nass river.

Mr. McQUARRIE: That was in 1918.

Mr. IRVING: There is another small one on the Nass river.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Now you correct your previous statement?

[Mr. H. Bell Irving.]