

of the British Columbia Fisheries; along the lines of the present 'Railway Commission.'

"7. The injurious effects of political influence in respect to the administration of fisheries affairs in British Columbia.

"It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing facts in relation to these, the most important fisheries in Canada, will justify the thorough investigation by your Honorable Bureau of Industrial Research and of the Royal Fisheries Commission to which reference was made in your telegram of September 24th, 1917, aforesaid.

"P. S. — In making inquiries from Chief Inspector of Fisheries, Cunningham, he stated he had received the following report of up river points on the Fraser this season: September 10th, 1917. From Overseer Perkins' report on trip of inspection to Stuart, Fraser and Francois Lakes.

"During my recent trip to Stuart, Fraser and Francois Lakes I found that many more Sockeye are reaching these lakes and the creeks running into them than have been seen for several years past. So far there seems to have been two runs, the first about the 10th of August and the second during the last week of the month.

"I am getting the same favorable reports from the North Fork of the Fraser, Clearwater River, Slim Creek and other streams tributary to the Fraser and Nechaco."

In this connection our esteemed contemporary, the Pacific Fisherman, Seattle, November issue, prints the following able editorial:

"The preservation of the Puget Sound salmon fishery is now a matter of the utmost urgency, not only to the fishing and packing industry but to the entire community. It is needless to review here the failure of the Sockeye run; of the small run that appeared, few fish were able to reach the spawning grounds, and the run four years hence will probably show a further decrease. The large Humpback pack is no ground for confidence, since there is ample testimony that it resulted not from an abundance of fish, but from the excessive amount of gear, which allowed few to escape. Thus intensive fishing has gone far to complete the destruction started by the slide on the Fraser in 1913. If the salmon fishery of this district is to have a future, drastic action must be taken, and that without delay.

The matter is coming up in the near future for official consideration, and it is essential that it be handled in a more practical and effective way than by the international commission which investigated the subject some years ago. What is needed primarily is a strict non-political, scientific survey of conditions on the spawning beds and fishing grounds which shall establish the specific facts as to what can and must be done to preserve the fishery; and it is imperative that the work be handled not only in a scientific spirit, but with broad sympathetic understanding of the economic questions involved. When determined, the facts established should be acted upon for the permanence of the fishery, without regard to any temporary personal advantage.

Arrangements for such a survey have already been initiated on the Canadian side, and it is hoped that the work will be handled in a sufficiently broad and constructive way to secure practical results. If so, the industry on this side of the line should co-operate in every way possible, to assist in determining the real facts on which to base further action. Meanwhile, however, there should be no delay in acting upon what is already known. Much may be accomplished by hatchery work, which should be given all possible encouragement. The scope of such work, however, is limited, and is further complicated by international questions; and the same applies to the protection of the spawning beds, important as that is. The most obvious need is to restrict fishing so that more fish can reach the spawning beds; and this should be the simplest measure to put through. A four-year close season, though undoubtedly effective, would probably be impossible of enactment, though the idea of increasing the weekly and annual close seasons should be

well considered. Curtailemnt of fishing area, more rigid license regulation for fishing boats, restrictions on the total amount of gear used, and action to limit the destructive herding of schools of fish, should all receive careful consideration; and steps should probably be taken to reduce the depth of nets. Above all, whatever restrictions are adopted, there must be ample appropriations and provisions for enough inspectors to see that the laws are enforced.

The question is greatly complicated by its international nature, which has paralyzed constructive efforts in the past. The time has arrived, however, when politics and red tape must be set aside and results secured. The United States has been bitterly arraigned in the recent report of the British Columbia Fisheries Department for failure to compete and validate the previous international agreement. It should be remembered, however, that in Canada the control is vested entirely in the Dominion Government, while the United States Government is without control over the fisheries, and the States are proverbially jealous of their rights; while only the national Government may negotiate with a foreign country.

The present situation can not wait for a formal treaty; and none is needed. The fishing interests and the people on both sides of the line are fully aroused to the peril of the situation, and are ready for action, without awaiting the cumbersome process of international negotiation. It is up to the officials on both sides to take what steps may be necessary. The only possible obstacle might be a short-sighted attitude on the part of some commercial interest; and in such an emergency any effort at obstruction for temporary private advantage must give way to the logic of conditions and the weight of public opinion.

MR. PHILIP VIBERT ON A TRIP OF INSPECTION.

Mr. Philip Vibert, who left British Columbia about two years ago as Superintendent of British Columbia branches of the Union Bank of Canada with headquarters at 550 Hastings Street, West, Vancouver, to take up the position of manager of the main office branch, Winnipeg, is back in British Columbia on a trip of inspection, having been appointed a short time ago, Chief Inspector of the Union Bank.

Mr. Vibert has been busy greeting his former banking associates, business and personal friends and letting it be known in no uncertain terms that he is glad to be back among his old friends and in the healthy and mild climate of this Coast.

The changes that have occurred in the two years that Mr. Vibert has been gone, is impressive to him, although he has in his position been able to keep in touch with business activity in British Columbia better than the average business men in Winnipeg, his headquarters. He left just as business affairs started on the rise and before shipbuilding had been anything more than a mooted question. The activity of the lumber business and the developments of mining have been greater than he anticipated, while general wholesale and retail business appears to be more active than the increased bank clearings would indicate. Mr. Vibert hopes and is inclined to believe that the shipbuilding industry on this Coast will be so firmly established under the present conditions that it may be possible for it to continue after the return of peace.

"Conditions throughout the Dominion are prosperous," continued Mr. Vibert, "and perhaps they have never been more so than on the prairies at the present time. About two hundred million bushels of wheat with other grains in like proportions have been raised this year in the three prairie provinces. These grains have graded high and the price has been fixed by the Government at prices never before received by the farmer. The harvests this year have greatly stimulated trade in practically every line so that everyone is busy and making money.