

feasible, Mr. Chairman; that is, the other fish are always in jeopardy, and are likely to be taken. If there was any considerable run such as there is at Cowichan, it would be a different matter.

*By Hon. Mr. Green:*

Q. In other words, it is hardly possible for an Indian or anybody else to know when he is striking a fish whether it is a dog salmon or what it is?—A. It depends somewhat on weather conditions to know, but the Indians are not different from most people who are given permission to do certain things, and if permission of a certain kind is given, there usually is but one result. Moreover, the amount of chump salmon which would be taken is not an important factor, I submit, to the Indians there, while the protection of that river is an important factor for British Columbia. It is a river that is drawing people to British Columbia from long reaches.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Your argument is that the Indians, even if deprived of that right on that river, will not suffer as a result?—A. Within easy reach roundabout he can readily procure the amount of fish he needs for food purposes.

Q. And your further argument is that you think it would be hopeless to make an arrangement with the Indians which they would observe, whereby they would take only— —A. Chump salmon.

*By Hon. Mr. McLennan:*

Q. So far you have only directed your attention to this very precious river?—A. Yes.

Q. What about other rivers elsewhere in the province?—A. In the various parts of the province, permits are issued to the Indians to take fish for their own food purposes at any time of the year, by spears or by other methods. We try to keep them down from doing that, as much as we can, but after looking into all the instances where these are regarded as being desirable, it will be quite readily realized what it means to take salmon which have run long distances to their spawning ground, and are on the point of spawning,—

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. The old chief complained about the upper country; I suppose he had reference to the streams emptying into the Shuswap Lake. Years ago they used to be thick with salmon, but his argument is that the salmon never returned.—A. Quite so.

Q. And his argument is that there is no injury to the fisheries if the Indian took these salmon for food.—A. Unfortunately, so far as the Indians are concerned, and so far as everybody else is concerned, since 1913 there have been very few salmon above Hell's Gate.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Yes, and you know the reason for that?—A. Quite so.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Chief Johnny complained that if that were stopped—A. For some years there was no fishing allowed by the Indians in the upper Fraser. That was during negotiations for the treaty with the United States which contemplated such, but for some years past, permits have been issued on the upper Fraser to take fish for food purposes. Considerably over 200 permits have been issued in that upper country during the past year.