

Hon. Mr. MICHAUD: That is a practice which has been observed for the last 33 years.

Mr. TOMLINSON: I would like to know why that principle was settled on; whether there had been any licences issued for other places, even if it has been a custom for the last 33 years.

Mr. NEILL: There were some issued in 1925.

Mr. REID: It was considered by the fishing industry to be a most destructive form of fishing and therefor it was abolished.

Mr. GREEN: There is nobody else asking for it that I know of.

Mr. NEILL: Then you should get in touch with the British Columbia section of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at Vancouver.

Mr. TOMLINSON: I would just like to find out why that custom was settled on.

Mr. FOUND: My evidence of the other day I think makes that fairly clear, that there is an exceptional condition so far as that area is concerned in that the fish making for the Fraser come in toward the Canadian shore and after they pass that point they go over to the United States' side and do not emerge therefrom until they get up around Point Roberts, during which time they run the gamut of the whole state of Washington fishermen. That is the reason for this being an exceptional situation. The whole run of fish to that area depends on the Fraser river for its reproduction, and things were getting so that up to two years ago we were getting a very small proportion of the catch.

Mr. TOMLINSON: I do not want to be taken as being prejudiced at all, because I am a long way from Vancouver, but I would like to have it clear in my mind how the department came to make that decision with respect to this particular spot; if an application for a trap were to come from some other part would it be refused?

Mr. NEIL: There is no law against it.

Mr. TOMLINSON: I understand that.

Mr. FOUND: It is a matter of policy, the department has been refusing licences in other areas for the past thirty years or more.

Mr. NEILL: I would like to tell these gentlemen some of the reasons why I think it has not been allowed for over 30 years. I had something to say about this matter some years ago, and on June 10, 1929, if you care to look up Hansard you will find where there was a debate respecting fish traps in British Columbia waters, and I have in my hand a copy of what I had to say on that occasion. An application was being made to Parliament favouring the re-establishing of traps throughout British Columbia, but when I say that perhaps I should qualify it by stating it related to points in the northern part of British Columbia; and they sent a commissioner up who decided in favour of traps. You will find from the report of the debate on that occasion that the arguments were all gone into very very fully. The debate was participated in by the various members from British Columbia—conservative, liberal and so on; and the decision was, in spite of the commissioner having recommended it, the government decided to allow no more traps. The question is one which has been brought up every now and then. This is another time it is being brought in. It was turned down in 1929 and again in 1925. It was brought up in 1925 or 1926, this principle of establishing traps in the north, and the then government, which was liberal, refused it. That government was defeated and the conservatives got in, and allowed a number and the agitation began all over again; then the premier Mr. Meighen went out to British Columbia to look the situation over himself and immediately issued orders that they were to be stopped, and they were stopped. An attempt was made again in 1929—