

variety of fish called the pinks, eighty per cent of which are taken by the United States; yet ninety per cent of the run find their home in British Columbia. Nothing has been done by the fisheries research board to find out what percentage of these pinks go to the Fraser river, how and where they spawn, and how many the United States really get of what I claim are Canadian fish. Either the fisheries research board should be specifically instructed by the minister to investigate this question, as I think they can be when this bill passes, or further authority should be given to the international Pacific salmon fisheries commission, not only to investigate and rehabilitate the sockeye salmon industry but all the other varieties of salmon which come up the Fraser river. That, of course, would require an amendment to the present treaty, but it is something I commend to the consideration of the minister and the house.

Another fishery is mentioned on page 46 of the report, the Cowichan river salmon. It has been investigated over many years but so far with little results. The board point out in their report:

This investigation has been carried on over a number of years and has resolved itself into a study of the variations occurring in a coho salmon run or population, subjected to commercial fishing along the west coast and in the strait of Georgia, and to an important sport fishery in Cowichan bay . . .

Nowhere yet is there any body of information of this kind.

I maintain that is not good enough, just to place before parliament and the fishing industry that there is no body of information on this question. I go back to the salmon called pinks and chums and repeat that it is not good enough to simply say that their numbers are going down and leave it at that. That does not help the industry very much unless steps are taken to build up these salmon runs.

The board have investigated pilchards, but I do not think anything has been done by the fisheries research board, so far as I can find out from the report, to investigate pilchards out in the open seas.

Some sunken net fisheries study has also been done. That includes thirty varieties or species of fish. Three or four men allotted to that work are not, in my opinion, enough. If they are to investigate the life history of some of these fish, as they likely will have to do, I wonder just when they will reach any conclusions, especially if only three or four investigators are investigating thirty varieties of fish and carry out their investigations over an area extending perhaps for hundreds of miles. The fisheries industry cannot afford to wait more than a lifetime or two for results. They cannot afford to wait for fifty or a hun-

dred years for recommendations if we are to get any benefit from them. These investigations should be hurried along. I think the minister should tell the board: I want you to investigate this variety or that variety, and that he expects some definite reports or results from their investigation within a reasonable period of time.

I have a word to say regarding oyster studies. I know that the great oyster fisheries in this country are in the maritime provinces, but we in British Columbia have developed some fine oyster beds too. The work in oyster research should be correlated with what is being done in the eastern maritimes. We should also find out what the state of Washington is doing, because the waters and the conditions there are the same as in British Columbia. I might point out that last year British Columbia marketed oysters to the value of \$106,000. For many long years we have been bringing what is known as oyster spat or seed from the maritimes to British Columbia waters. The results were not altogether successful. This spat was crossed with the native oyster and even then the product was not as desirable from a marketing point of view as required, although the quality was fairly good. Until the war broke out oyster spat was imported from Japan and it was found that this oyster spat from Japan just suited British Columbia waters. Spat is now beginning to come in again from Japan.

An hon. MEMBER: It was assimilated.

Mr. REID: It is too bad we could not do that with the natives from Japan, but the oysters seem to be in a class of their own. Today in the gulf islands, which I know very well because I lived there for six happy years in the early period of my life, the beaches which had no oysters back in those days in 1911 are now beginning to have oysters on almost every beach. This is due to the importation of spat or seed from Japan which has crossed with the native spat and with spat from the east and now there has developed an oyster that does extremely well in the waters of British Columbia. Under the heading of "Oyster Studies" on page 49 of the annual report of the fisheries research board I find this:

The only work conducted on oysters in 1946 consisted of experiments by Alice M. Kelley, under the supervision of Mr. Neave, on tank propagation of oysters. If a satisfactory and feasible method of production of seed in tanks could be found, oyster growers would be less dependent on natural setting or on importation of seed from Japan for maintenance of stocks.

[Mr. Reid.]