

and seven-twelfths to the crew. If the total catch of a seine boat is worth \$12,000, it means that \$5,000 goes to the owners of the vessel, while \$7,000 is distributed among the crew. But if the same amount of fish were caught by gill-net fishermen, all the \$12,000 would be distributed among those fishermen. The loss is borne by the gill-net fishermen who have to buy their own equipment and who mostly reside along or adjacent to the banks of the Fraser river. These seine boats can operate anywhere. They may fish one area and then, when the season opens in another area, they may go there. They may fish in the gulf of Georgia and then go along the west coast of Vancouver island or down into other areas, as they have been doing ever since 1933, and particularly in 1938.

One variety of salmon being caught by the seine boat is known as spring salmon. These schools or hordes of pink or sockeye salmon are so large that generally there are other varieties of fish found mixed up with them. Spring salmon have been getting scarcer as the years go by, and fewer of this variety of fish have been caught by the gill-net fishermen ever since 1933, when the seine boats were first allowed to operate.

Let me go back for a moment again to the quality of the fish. I have before me a letter from Edmunds and Walker Limited, which states that the purse seine fishing bruises the spring salmon when catching them. They point out that better prices are paid to the gill-net fishermen for this variety of salmon than are paid to the seine fishermen when they are presumably out fishing for either pink or sockeye salmon. They have this to say about price:

At the same time as the seiners were receiving this price of 25 cents a piece or about two-thirds to three-quarters cents per pound the gill-netters were receiving three cents per pound for reds and one cent per pound for whites.

And again:

The reason for this is that these fish in the process of being brailed and of being transferred from the seine boat to the collector are being so badly bruised and smashed that they must be classified along with white salmon and sold at an equivalent price.

That is most interesting in view of the argument put forth by the departmental officials that the seine boats catch fish of a better quality than those caught by the gill-netters. The evidence this year shows that the seine boats are endeavouring to control the whole area. I am not arguing for one moment that purse seine fishing should not be allowed in British Columbia, because I realize that there are certain districts where

it should be allowed. My argument for the elimination of purse seines from the area is based on the fact that the area is small and is an estuary of the Fraser river where the fish school and get ready to head up the river to spawn. For that reason it is important that fishing by seines be entirely eliminated. So far as I know, no protests have been made this year by the industry. In my argument I want it distinctly understood that I am speaking on behalf of the British Columbia Fishermen's Protective Association, whose head office is in New Westminster. The president of this association has the following to say about last year's operations:

Last year during the run of late sockeye owing to the peculiarity of movement shown by this school of fish, the seines seemed to be unable to contact the school owing to the fact that the fish remained further north for quite some time, which is not usually the case, but once the fish moved south, in the vicinity of Canoe Pass, the seines then plugged the canneries immediately, boats bringing in six to eight thousand loads for each days fishing, and in order to stop a repetition of the wasteful loss of fish through the canneries being plugged, which occurred in 1936, and also to avoid putting up a lot of fish at a cheap price, it was mutually agreed by both our association and the cannery operators to close district number one and let a very fine run of fish go on to the spawning ground.

This would have been very difficult for us to do, had the price, offered by the cannery operators, remained at a fair level and might be impossible another year. It should be plain from this that the seines still constitute a grave menace to the gill-net fishermen when the fish school in the vicinity of Canoe Pass.

Briefly, my argument is this: The livelihood of well over 2,000 gill net fishermen will be jeopardized if these 105 seine boats are allowed to continue to take from this area salmon heading up the Fraser river. I want to repeat that there are only a certain number of fish which come through the strait headed for the Fraser river. The more seine or power boats that are allowed to operate in that area, the fewer fish there will be for the individual gill-net fishermen who live in this district and whose homes are mostly along the banks of the Fraser river or in the immediate vicinity.

If one looks at this bill from the point of view of the greatest good to the greatest number, one cannot help coming to the conclusion that it should be accepted by the house. This is not altogether a fight that has been going on since British Columbia became a province, because it has become a well established fact in the estuary of the Fraser that this area has always been fished by gill net fishermen. As to quality, I think I have exploded any arguments that have been

[Mr. Reid.]