

Mr. Wm. A. FOUND, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, called.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, I hope the committee will keep in mind that I am speaking entirely extempore and without preparation, as I did not know that I was going to be called upon to make a statement of this kind at this meeting. Speaking from memory, however, I think I can give you the general picture with correctness, subject to modifications possibly in detail.

The salmon fishing industry in that northern Pacific area began in the Fraser River, was carried on on the Fraser River side for a good many years prior to the industry being undertaken on the adjoining State of Washington side. The reason for that was that, as in all industries, as a general thing, production began where it was simplest. The fish were coming right into the Fraser River, and methods of catching them that were ready, that of gill nets, began to be used there as soon as a market for the fish was available; and the extent to which the fishery was carried on for a number of years depended on the demand for the product.

Speaking from memory, fishing began on the Fraser River side somewhere around 1876, and it was not until the late eighties, possibly 1884 or 1886, that fishing began to be undertaken on the United States side,—fishing by gill nets on the State of Washington side. If you will just look at the map here, it will possibly make it a bit clearer. Here is the boundary line (indicating). Here is Vancouver Island, British Columbia, the State of Washington. Here is the boundary line which runs out, which follows the 49th parallel to the middle of the Strait of Georgia, then runs down the middle of the strait, according to the treaty, as the treaty was interpreted by the Emperor of Germany, to whom the matter was finally submitted as to whether it should go down this way (indicating) or down the other side of San Juan Island. He decided it should go down here. Now, the fish coming in here, go up the Fraser River, practically all of them are making for the Fraser River to spawn; and as I said, the fact that the fish were there became quite evident to the people who were living along the Fraser River, and the fishing industry started as soon as the demand for them made that feasible. It was continued for a number of years, the people on this side (indicating) beginning to wonder what they could do about it, as they knew that the fish come in from Juan de Fuca Strait, were in a large measure at least passing through United States waters. The conditions of the waters on the United States side were such as to make gill net fishing, the method that was being followed on the Canadian side, not feasible—quite impracticable, as gill nets are usually successful only where there is a sufficient cloudiness of the water to make the nets largely invisible to the fish. So another method of fishing had to be developed, if the fishing was going to be extended to this side (indicating). Without going into detail, that method was developed, in the first instance, of trap fishing.

Here is a diagram of a trap (indicating). This makes it clear at once. This is a very much more modern trap than was used in those early days. Here is the shore line. This is the water. This is what is called the lead. There are two types of traps. We are dealing here with by far the least dangerous type of trap. There are two types, one the pile driven trap, the other the floating trap. These are all pile driven traps that cannot be moved from place to place. They are all attached to the soil where they are. These dots that you see represent piles driven into the bottom, so that bottom conditions have got to be favourable where these are driven; and the length from shore is usually governed by the depth of the water. The fish coming along, going this way for instance—I should say along these piles is strung webbing of one type or another, usually wire webbing, so that when the fish coming up, making in this way, for instance (indicating), they would strike this side of the leader. They immediately start to follow it along; the shore being there, they would

[Dr. Wm. A. Found.]