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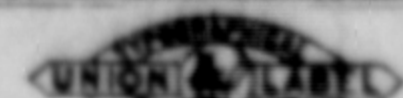
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DAILY EDITION



Tuesday, August 15, 1922.

Witness Admits Illegal Fishing on Skeena River; Close Season for Halibut

The most interesting evidence before the Fisheries Commission yesterday afternoon was the admission by Bob Hanna that he had fished with a net and a half on the Skeena this season, and that the Japanese had used two and three nets. Much of the earlier discussion centred around the Oriental fishing on the river.

Later in the afternoon the halibut fisheries were before the Commission, and Capt. P. Rorvik and others spoke in favor of a close season for halibut. The culling of halibut also came under consideration.

Bob Hanna's Evidence.

The first witness called was Bob Hanna who said he had been fishing on and off in local waters since 1916, and had been a fisherman practically all his life. He said it was five years since he had fished in the Skeena river prior to this year and considered there was something radically wrong at the canneries. In the course of his evidence he said there were practically 1400 boats fishing in the Skeena River out of which some 200 were manned by Indians and white men, the remainder being manned by Japanese. At neither of the canneries was there a white man tallying fish which work was being done in every case by the Orientals, and that the tow boats were all manned by Japanese. He had discussed the conditions with the manager of one of the canneries with reference to the change in conditions in the past five years. The manager had stated that the fishery commission should have come twenty years ago and that it was too late to do any good in the Skeena River now. Hanna had pointed out to him that he was only the manager of the cannery in name and that he had to do as the Japanese told him, and had asked him what was the reason for it. He said that the cannery contractor in Vancouver got three or four thousand dollars for supplying labor to the canneries and that they had to give them practically what they wanted.

Fished Illegally.

Mr. Hanna said he had been high man at the cannery for two weeks for which he had obtained a bonus of \$10 for each week, that was between white men and Indians. Speaking about the class of nets Hanna said that he had seen white men with nets that you could not chase a sock eye into it unless a shotgun were used.

He had been fishing with one and a half nets while the Japanese had been fishing with two and three nets. Before proceeding to fish he had paid \$10 for a fishing permit from the Dominion Fisheries office.

Mr. Motherwell explained that the permits were issued in lieu of licenses for various reasons. It was sometimes the case that the office was out of regular license forms, the stationary department being overcrowded with orders and the permits were issued in the interim, the license being afterwards mailed to the point where the fisherman was fishing.

Mr. Duff asked witness: "You say you were fishing one and a half nets instead of a net and that the Japanese were fishing two and three nets. What reason have you for breaking the law?"

Had to Make up Pack.

Witness said in reply that he had called the attention of the manager of the cannery to the fact and the answer he gave was to the effect that they had

cut so many days off and that they had got to make up the pack up. He knew of Indians that had not cleared the cost of their bill at the cannery store, and that the majority of white men could just about pay their board. He himself had practically made wages.

Japanese under 18 years of age were fishing on the river. All the cannery employees had been notified regarding the fishery commission and they knew the day the commission would arrive.

Mr. Motherwell stated that no man could obtain a fishing license unless he was a British subject. It had been claimed by a good many fishermen that they juggle with their papers and he thought that no doubt they did.

Boats and Licenses.

On the Skeena River 642 licenses had been issued, and the department was endeavoring to see that the proper men got the licenses. Mr. Martell said that it was the duty of the Fisheries Department to see that the right men were using the licenses.

The chairman asked Mr. Hanna how many boats were fishing. Witness stated there were approximately 1400.

Mr. Duff: "You say there are more boats fishing than there are licensed."

Witness: "I had a permit but no number on it or the boat."

Mr. Neill asked that if it were the custom to issue a permit without a number how was Ottawa to know how many licenses were issued.

Mr. Stork asked why it was not possible to issue the official permit right away.

Mr. Motherwell explained that the stationery department was sometimes late in issuing the forms.

Witness continuing said that the Japanese were organized and that the white man was not. In 1912 when he was fishing on the Skeena the Japanese question had not come to the fore as it had today. At that time he had his own boat and net. At the cannery then he could not get a white man's license but they had 40 Japanese licenses on hand, one of which was issued to him, and his name was Kame Amy Ata. Mr. Hanna thought that the Japanese would practically own the canneries before long and asked "where will we go then?"

Mr. Motherwell asked witness how there could be 1400 boats fishing when only 642 licenses had been issued.

Witness was not quite clear on this point. In reply to a question asking witness how many times he had been checked up for not having a number on his boat witness replied that he had never been checked up.

Mr. Martell said that this man's testimony was corroborated by previous witnesses.

Japanese vs. White.

Mr. Cowie asked witness

whether if white men were fishing on the Skeena at the same price as the Jap, he thought white men would be willing to do it. Witness said that at Rivers Inlet the position is the same as up here and in 1906 there were only 20 Jap boats fishing there and there were 500 white men and now he did not suppose there were 100 white men fishing.

The chairman asked why there was such a greater proportion of Japs as against white men in the fisheries.

Witness said for one reason the Japanese did not have to appear personally to get a license.

Mr. Motherwell said that the Jap did have to appear personally before the licensing officer, and this regulation had been in force since 1920.

Mr. Dickie said that supposing the Japanese were eliminated could white men be obtained to fish at the canneries. If white men are only making \$100 for the season he did not see that there was any inducement. Are there too many licenses on the river or is the price insufficient? Unless a white man can make more than \$100 for the season he did not see how a white man could make it pay.

Use of Gas Boats.

Referring to the gas boat suggestion witness said that before taking any steps in this matter it would be essential to reduce the number of Japanese fishermen as they had so many gas boats. The gas boat he said would certainly deliver more fish than the sailing boat. Mr. Cowie said he understood the Japanese would have no difficulty in obtaining gas boats while in this connection the white man would be handicapped.

Witness replied, "yes." Mr. Martell said he understood witness was opposed to the use of gas boats on the Skeena River. Witness said he was not opposed if the Japanese were eliminated. During his testimony witness remarked about the high price of groceries charged at the cannery store.

Mr. Neill asked witness if it were any advantage to buy the groceries in town instead of at the canneries. Witness said it certainly was but at the cannery you are issued out a book of grocery coupons. He was five weeks with the cannery and it had cost him \$75 for coupons, and he did not think the members of the commission would pay any more in the Prince Rupert hotel. He had spoken to the storekeeper about the high prices prevailing and had been told that he, the storekeeper, had to make 200 per cent or he would lose his job.

Richard P. Sullivan.

Richard P. Sullivan related some of his personal grievances against the cannery interests and added his voice to the appeal against Oriental fishermen. He charged that the canneries were crushing down the white fishermen and favoring the Japanese. For his own activities in organizing the white fishermen he now found himself practically boycotted. The canneries supplied him with poor nets and would not buy his fish. He had used all his efforts towards making Prince Rupert and Vancouver white cities and British Columbia a white province. As a means of driving out the Orientals he suggested a 25 per cent income tax and the penalizing of canneries which favored them. If something were not done the people of Canada would wake up some day looking into a gun. He could startle the country with his revelations if he were to give them. Some of the cannery managers did not know anything about salmon but the department officials had always played the game.

Commissioners Sympathies.

Mr. Duff assured Mr. Sullivan that the commission had the best interests of the fishermen at heart. The cannery interests had come to Ottawa and put up their case but the commission was out here, without compensation to its members to take the evidence of those who might not be able to go to Ottawa. That should be proof that they meant to give the fishermen a square deal.

William Brown spoke again



To Holders of Five Year 5½ per cent Canada's Victory Bonds

Issued in 1917 and Maturing 1st December, 1922.

CONVERSION PROPOSALS

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE offers to holders of these bonds who desire to continue their investment in Dominion of Canada securities the privilege of exchanging the maturing bonds for new bonds bearing 5½ per cent interest, payable half yearly, of either of the following classes:—

- (a) Five year bonds, dated 1st November, 1922, to mature 1st November, 1927.
- (b) Ten year bonds, dated 1st November, 1922, to mature 1st November, 1932.

While the maturing bonds will carry interest to 1st December, 1922, the new bonds will commence to earn interest from 1st November, 1922, GIVING A BONUS OF A FULL MONTH'S INTEREST TO THOSE AVAILING THEMSELVES OF THE CONVERSION PRIVILEGE.

This offer is made to holders of the maturing bonds and is not open to other investors. The bonds to be issued under this proposal will be substantially of the same character as those which are maturing, except that the exemption from taxation does not apply to the new issue.

Dated at Ottawa, 8th August, 1922.

Holders of the maturing bonds who wish to avail themselves of this conversion privilege should take their bonds AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30th, to a Branch of any Chartered Bank in Canada and receive in exchange an official receipt for the bonds surrendered, containing an undertaking to deliver the corresponding bonds of the new issue.

Holders of maturing fully registered bonds, interest payable by cheque from Ottawa, will receive their December 1 interest cheque as usual. Holders of coupon bonds will detach and retain the last unmatured coupon before surrendering the bond itself for conversion purposes.

The surrendered bonds will be forwarded by banks to the Minister of Finance at Ottawa, where they will be exchanged for bonds of the new issue, in fully registered, or coupon registered or coupon bearer form carrying interest payable 1st May and 1st November of each year of the duration of the loan, the first interest payment accruing and payable 1st May, 1923. Bonds of the new issue will be sent to the banks for delivery immediately after the receipt of the surrendered bonds.

The bonds of the maturing issue which are not converted under this proposal will be paid off in cash on the 1st December, 1922.

W. S. FIELDING,

Minister of Finance.

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In future all buildings in the city must have chimneys of brick or concrete. A report from the building commission recommending that the building bylaws be amended to this effect was adopted by the council last night.

ALL CHIMNEYS IN FUTURE MUST BE OF BRICK OR CONCRETE

Mr. Rorvik's principal idea was for a life saving boat for halibut fishermen. Such a boat would be invaluable in protecting the lives of the fishermen and also could be used to prospect for new halibut grounds. A pretty good boat would be required possibly something like the larger patrol boats of the department.

Matters of detail in the halibut fisheries were spoken of by Mr. Rorvik in answer to various questions by the commissioners.

Halibut Depletion.

Mr. Rorvik reiterated the statement that the halibut fisheries were rapidly becoming depleted. The American organization in charting the banks and

and referred to an incident of some years ago showing the ease with which Japanese could obtain licenses but the difficulties that the white men met.

Peter Judge.

Peter Judge, who refused to swear by the Bible saying that he did not believe in the Book or in God, was affirmed and dealt with halibut matters, asking particularly that an inspector be appointed to take his station at the fish docks and see that fish culled by the purchasing company was really cull fish. He alleged that it was the practice of the fish buying houses to cull fish and throw them under the table later picking them up again and loading them in the cars after the fishermen had gone. The witness declared that after days of hardship the fishermen wanted some pleasure and did not have time to see that the cull fish was really destroyed.

Mr. Martell took the view that this question was simply one of contract between the fishermen and the companies. The fishermen were entitled to the cull fish and could dispose of them as they saw fit if they wished. Questioned as to his views on the depletion of the halibut fisheries and a close season, Mr. Judge stated that the fish were becoming depleted and there should be a close season for three months between September and December.

Peter Rorvik.

Peter Rorvik, the next witness, said that he thought it would be a good thing to have a close season for the months of January and February. This was the spawning time and it was also the time that the fishermen started to fish. Consequently fishing in these months was depleting the fish.

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