

1942.

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Box 196

THE POST-WAR REHABILITATION COUNCIL
Government of British Columbia

Honourable H.G.T. Perry, M.L.A.
Minister of Education, and Chairman of the
Post-war Rehabilitation Council

LIST OF PLANS AND PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO POST-WAR
REHABILITATION COUNCIL, REFERRED TO INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Second List, Pages 30 to 40

- # Referred also to Inter-Departmental Advisory Committee on
Parks and Forests
- ## Referred also to Inter-Departmental Advisory Committee on
Agriculture and Land Settlement
- ### Referred also to Inter-Departmental Advisory Committee on
Public Works

Note: Item 23 on Page 9 of previous listing, has been
referred to both the above-mentioned Committees.

Items 1, 21, 37, 38, 52, 82 and 142 of previous
listing have been referred to Inter-Departmental
Advisory Committee on Parks and Forests.

Victoria, B. C.
November, 1942

Sub-heading	Nature of Proposal	From
(172) Fishing Industry -	Recommends construction of wharves and sheds for fishermen and clearing of passages to spawning grounds.	Brief presented by Surrey Municipal Coun. J.T. Brown, Reeve, Cloverdale, B.C. August 8, 1942. File 3-2-2
(196) -ditto-	Recommends that no fishing licenses be granted to Japanese and that returned men be encouraged to engage in fishing.	Brief presented by Peachland Local of B.C.F.G.A., Peachland, B.C. Sept. 23, 1942. File 3-7-6
(174) Food Industries - Fruit Canneries	Recommends establishment of community canning centres.	Brief presented by Surrey Municipal Coun. J.T. Brown, Reeve, Cloverdale, B.C. August 8, 1942. File 3-2-2
(193) -ditto-	Salmon Arm needs canning factory or dehydrating plant for processing soft fruits grown in area.	Brief presented by City of Salmon Arm, Salmon Arm, B.C. Sept. 22, 1942. File 3-2-1
(205) -ditto-	Recommend establishment of small canneries in suitable area. Would use surplus fruit and create employment.	Brief presented by Board of Trade, Canadian Legion, Municipal Council and Women's Institute, at Penticton, B.C. Sept. 24, 1942. File 3-8-2 A
(222) -ditto-	Recommend establishment of dehydrating plants and extension of research into agricultural by-products.	Brief presented by Vernon Branch, Canadian Legion, Vernon, B.C. Sept. 23, 1942. File 3-4-1
(242) -ditto-	Suggests possibilities of small canning and dehydration plant in Kootenay area.	Brief presented by Mr. Eric Ramsden, Nelson, B.C. Sept. 26, 1942. File 3-11-1

(1)

MEMORANDUM

to the

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Re

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FISHERIES

Commenting first on those suggestions submitted to the Post-war Rehabilitation Council:

Nos. 40 and 41.

Both these suggestions recommend the removal of obstructions to the passage of salmon at Hell's Gate on the Fraser River.

This is presently being done. The responsibility for the rehabilitation of the sockeye salmon runs to the Fraser River has been placed in the hands of an International Commission, which Commission has employed outstanding fisheries experts and among other problems being investigated and worked on by the Commission, is one of providing free passage to salmon past Hell's Gate.

No. 20.

Suggests that an opportunity exists at Tofino for white fishermen where Japanese formerly operated a Co-operative Trolling Association.

For a number of years there has been a very successful white Fishermen's Co-operative Association operating on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The Kyuquot Trollers' Co-operative Association operates camps and fish-buying stations at all fishing centers and has its own stores and several large vessels for transporting fish to market. This co-operative has been in existence for a number of years and is one of the outstanding examples of co-operative effort among fishermen in British Columbia. No doubt, many of the white fishermen at Tofino are already members of this association. There would seem to be no point in the Government encouraging a duplicate organization.

Nos. 75, 93, 131, 135 and 155

All these suggestions recommend that assistance be given by the Government, by way of loans or in some unstated manner, in order to establish returned men and others in the fishing industry.

Supplies of fish limited.

The suggestions contained in the briefs under these headings bring into sharp focus the whole question of post-war economy as related to fisheries, specifically and possibly to other of our natural resources. Before commenting on these suggestions, it is most important that some understanding be had of a few of the fundamental principles underlying the economics of the pre-war fishing industry of British Columbia. Those not familiar with British Columbia's fisheries are prone to compare this industry

or other purposes. When this time arrives it is imperative that these diversions be properly screened to prevent the passage of young salmon into these diversions, thus causing untold loss.

With reference to No. 4, at the present time the Federal Government, under the B.N.A. Act, is responsible for the protection, extension, and development of the fisheries of the Province and the Federal Fisheries Act makes provision for the safeguarding of salmon from the effects of pollution. It occasionally happens, however, that other interests advocating the erection of sawmills, pulp mills, and other forms of manufacture, do not give sufficient consideration to the value of fisheries resources. It is submitted that Government policy should demand the proper treatment of waste matter from these plants which would adequately protect the fisheries. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that, properly administered, and protected, the fisheries of British Columbia will continue to return large revenues annually. Unlike most of the other resources, the value of fisheries is a continuing value, whereas most of the other resources are of a diminishing nature.

JAPANESE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Regarding the re-establishment of Japanese in British Columbia's fisheries, I may say that, notwithstanding labour conditions generally caused by the war, the slack caused by the removal of the Japanese from the coast districts has been, to a very large extent, already taken up. As pointed out elsewhere in this memorandum, the industry, previous to the outbreak of the war, was definitely overcrowded. The removal of the Japanese has not lessened the total production. Practically all of the Japanese-owned vessels have been disposed of to white fishermen or companies and, outside of a few older and less suitable boats, the whole of the formerly Japanese-owned fleet participated in British Columbia's fisheries in 1942.

It would probably be in order at this time to point out that the Japanese fishermen in British Columbia, previous to the outbreak of hostilities with Japan, were not such a large factor in the actual fish production as would at first seem. In 1939, of the total number of fishing licences issued in British Columbia, less than 14% were issued to Japanese. It must be remembered that only British subjects are permitted to hold fishing licences in British Columbia. Attention should also be called to the fact that British Columbia halibut fishermen were not required to have a licence. Practically no Japanese were fishing halibut so that of the total number of men engaged in fishing in British Columbia previous to the war, considerably less than 14% were of Japanese origin.

Notwithstanding the facts contained in the above paragraph, it is strongly urged and recommended that, regardless of what disposition is made of the Japanese population in Canada after the cessation of hostilities, these people should not be permitted to re-enter the fisheries of British Columbia. There are a number of reasons for this recommendation, of which one or two of the more important ones are cited, namely:-

1. From the standpoint of national security:

Japanese do not assimilate. Regardless of whether the Japanese might be born in Canada or in Japan, they remain Japanese. The fishing industry by its nature is such that it is difficult for the authorities to properly observe all the activities of those engaged in deep-sea fishing, thus creating a splendid opportunity for enemy agents.

2. Economic:

Because of the Japanese lower standard of living, or one might say, less expensive standard of living, white fishermen cannot compete with them. Conditions which

permit the white fisherman to barely manage to stay in business are, from the Japanese standpoint, reasonably satisfactory. When economic conditions in the fishery are such that the white fisherman is making reasonable earnings, the Japanese, by virtue of the difference in living standard mentioned above, is able to improve his gear or purchase new equipment, such as boat or engine, or both, which immediately places him in a superior position from the standpoint of production to his white competitor.

The Japanese fisherman, by and large, does not contribute in any great measure to the total economy of the Province. As pointed out above, he lives very frugally and, except for what money is spent on those things which he requires and cannot obtain from Japan, any money which he accumulates is sent to his homeland.

It is pointed out above that the Japanese does not assimilate. This is also true in the economic sense. The Japanese in British Columbia's fisheries, whenever possible, buys goods imported from Japan. He patronizes Japanese business houses. If he is building a boat, the boat is invariably built in a Japanese yard. Nets and lines purchased by Japanese are almost exclusively of Japanese manufacture. His food, apart from what is grown in the country, is largely imported from Japan. Except for a small amount of clothing and those essential articles of Canadian and American origin which the Japanese must have and cannot procure from Japan, the total earnings eventually, either by direct remission or indirectly through purchases, accrue to the benefit of Japan rather than Canada.

The present fishing season has proven that the Japanese is not a necessary factor in fisheries production in the Province. For these reasons, therefore, it is reiterated that Japanese should not be permitted to become re-established in the fisheries of British Columbia.

CONCLUSION

The above remarks are submitted in the hope that they may be of some guidance to the Post-war Rehabilitation Council. No doubt, much has been left unsaid. It is difficult to make specific

recommendations which will be suitable for Post-war economy, of which we have presently little knowledge. The above remarks do, however, point out some of the conditions prevalent in the fishing industry of the Province previous to the war. If these are known and are undesirable, it may help in some measure to improvement in the post-war period.