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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

PROVINCIAL FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1942

WITH APPENDICES



PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C. :
Printed by CHARLES F. BANFIELD, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1943.

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*To His Honour Colonel W. C. WOODWARD,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I beg to submit herewith the Report of the Provincial Fisheries Department for the year ended December 31st, 1942, with Appendices.

GEORGE SHARRATT PEARSON,
Commissioner of Fisheries.

*Provincial Fisheries Department,
Commissioner of Fisheries' Office,
Victoria, British Columbia.*

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F-20-D

1 9 4 2,
Jan. 6.

Mrs. Dorothy Spurr,
Secretary,
Commissioner of Fisheries,
Parliament Buildings.

Fisheries

Dear Mrs. Spurr:

Your letter of January 6 to the Honourable the Premier, together with copies of letters from E. T. Kenney, M.L.A., and George J. Alexander attached thereto has been referred to me for attention.

The Honourable the Premier suggests that you write to Mr. Kenney along the following lines:

"Your communication of December 30 arrived after the Honourable George S. Pearson had left for Ottawa, where he has gone for the purpose of discussing the Japanese situation. It is very likely that the points raised in your letter will receive action at that conference."

Yours sincerely,



41273 ✓

VICTORIA

January 6th, 1942.

MEMORANDUM TO

Honourable the Premier,
BUILDINGS.

In the absence of the Commissioner of Fisheries I am enclosing copy of a letter received from Mr. E. T. Kenney, M.L.A. regarding fishery licences to the Japanese.

As Mr. Kenney states that he intends to make an issue of this in the House I thought it wise to send you this correspondence.

I took the matter up with the Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries, and for your information I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum received from him in this regard.

Correspondence has also been forwarded to Mr. Pearson in Ottawa.

Dorothy Spurr

SECRETARY.

DS/PP
Encl.

C O P Y

E.T. KENNEY, M.L.A.
TERRACE, B.C.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

December 30th,
1 9 4 1.

Hon. Geo. S. Pearson,
Min. of Fisheries,
Parliament Bldgs,
Victoria, B.C.

My Dear Pearson,

I understand that from the plethora of cabinet shuffles which has taken place during the past two months, that you have emerged again with the portfolio of Fisheries and it is in your capacity of Minister of that department that I wish to make some observations and recommendations.

I note with no little concern that the canneries are much concerned over as to whether or not the japs are to get renewals of their fishery licences in view of the changed relations during the past year, and may I say right here it is high time that the people are given consideration along with the vested interests. If we cannot survive excepting by the grace of our enemies then we should perish.

May I ask you to recall that when you narrowed our boundaries, and put into effect the week end closed season etc. the reason assigned for so doing, was that, that were too many boats operating in those areas; I say "when you did this" I am assuming of course that you would be consulted by Ottawa before such drastic regulations would be made and therefore consented to it. If then, there were too many boats, now is an opportune time to thin them out and give our own men, the white fisherman his break; if under normal circumstances, these white men cannot supply the trade, then in all fairness move the boundaries back to where the fish are, and open up the close season; there will only be sufficient fish caught in any event which the market can absorb or what the people require and that seems to be the chief concern.

If there is still a shortage of salmon, allow the seiners to drift in the mouths of the rivers, they will get all the fish you require. In this manner you will be setting up a lot of independent fishermen and not having

...2...

them under the heel of the cannery men; they would own their own boats and equipment which is as it should be and not under obligations to the vested interests.

It was not so long ago that you did not approve of issuing any more cannery licences; you insisted that there were cannery's enough to take care of all the fish and that no more licences should be issued; this is a good old tory policy and foreign to liberal minds and thought, but here is an opportunity to get back on the right track. Under no circumstances renew the licences to the japs, and thereby throw the fishing into the hands of the our own people where it properly belongs, and allow them to make a reasonable living and own their own equipment.

If, on the other hand, your mind is made up, then in all fairness, I suggest, that in view of the fact that the Legislature will meet very shortly, this matter might well, be made the subject of debate and have all angles discussed before a decision is made.

I certainly intend to make an issue of it and I hope that you have at least an open mind on the subject untill such time as the members have had an opportunity of expressing themselves on such a momentous question.

We have been pillored to death on account of allowing these japs to penetrate and infiltrate into our commerical life and the excuse has always been made that our relations, diplomatic, with Japan have been of such a fine nature that we could not endanger them by moving in the matter; this was all tommy-rot, as subsequent developments have proven, and now is the opportune time to clarify the situation for all time and give the people of this province the much needed redress that they need. I am not concerned with Ottawa's attitude whatever; they do not have this competition and problem to contend with; if we are worthy to be called a government, it will be demonstrated and proven by the manner in which we handle this Jap situation and I am unalterably opposed to giving them any consideration regardless of where they were born or why they were born.

I trust that I may have an early reply to this letter and would suggest, that in view of the fact that I shall be leaving in a few days for the south, that you direct your reply to me in care of the Georgia Hotel at Vancouver with instructions to hold for arrival.

I am

Very truly yours,

"E.T. Kenney"

E.T. Kenney.

ES

RECEIVED

JAN 6 1942

Commissioner of Fisheries

copy of F-3/42.

January 5, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

Commissioner of Fisheries,
BUILDINGS.

I return herewith your F-2/42, being a letter under date of December 30th, addressed to the Hon. George S. Pearson, Minister of Fisheries, and signed by Mr. E. T. Kenney.

In connection with the statement made in the second paragraph of this letter, I should like to point out that I do not know of any representations having been made to Ottawa by the salmon canners of British Columbia, or on their behalf, with a view to having the Federal Government instruct the Department of Fisheries to re-issue fishing licences to Japanese for the coming season. I have made inquiries today by long distance telephone, which I expect to have confirmed by letter, from Major J. A. Motherwell, Chief Supervisor of Fisheries, Mr. John Buchanan, General Manager, British Columbia Packers Limited, and Mr. George Clark, Production Manager, Canadian Fishing Company. Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Clark assured me that they have not made any representations to Ottawa regarding Japanese fishing licences on behalf of their respective companies. Major Motherwell advised that he knows of no such representations having been made. I have also communicated with the Secretary of the Salmon Canners Operating Committee, who assured me that that Committee has made no representations.

I am advised by Mr. Buchanan that appearing in today's press is a statement made by the Fisheries Institute of British Columbia, which body represents 90% of the salmon canners of the Province. The state-

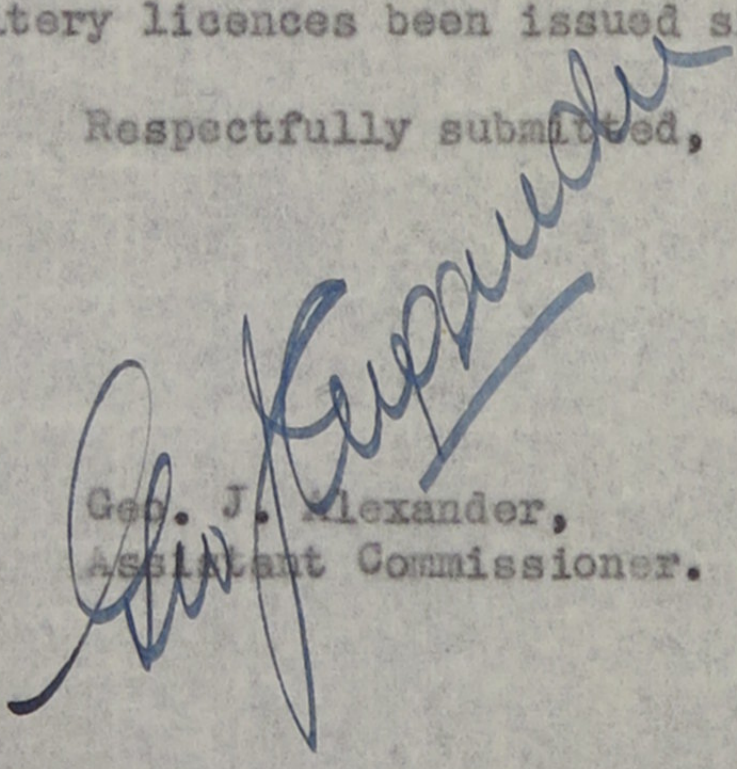
Commissioner of Fisheries - Page 2.

ment is to the effect that the salmon canners represented by the institute have not made any representations to Ottawa with a view to having fishing licences reissued to Japanese.

The statement made in the second paragraph of Mr. Kenney's letter that the canners are working to have the Japanese fishing licences renewed is apparently based on rumor which would appear to be groundless and, as the balance of Mr. Kenney's letter is more or less all in support of the objection voiced in the second paragraph, I need not comment further thereon.

I should, perhaps, point out that fishing licences in British Columbia are issued by the Federal Government and plant licences are issued by the Provincial Government under authority of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Of the latter the only plants licensed to operate by Japanese were salmon and herring salteries. The Provincial Government has not issued any salmon saltery licences since 1938 nor have any herring saltery licences been issued since 1940.

Respectfully submitted,


Geo. J. Alexander,
Assistant Commissioner.

GJA:GC