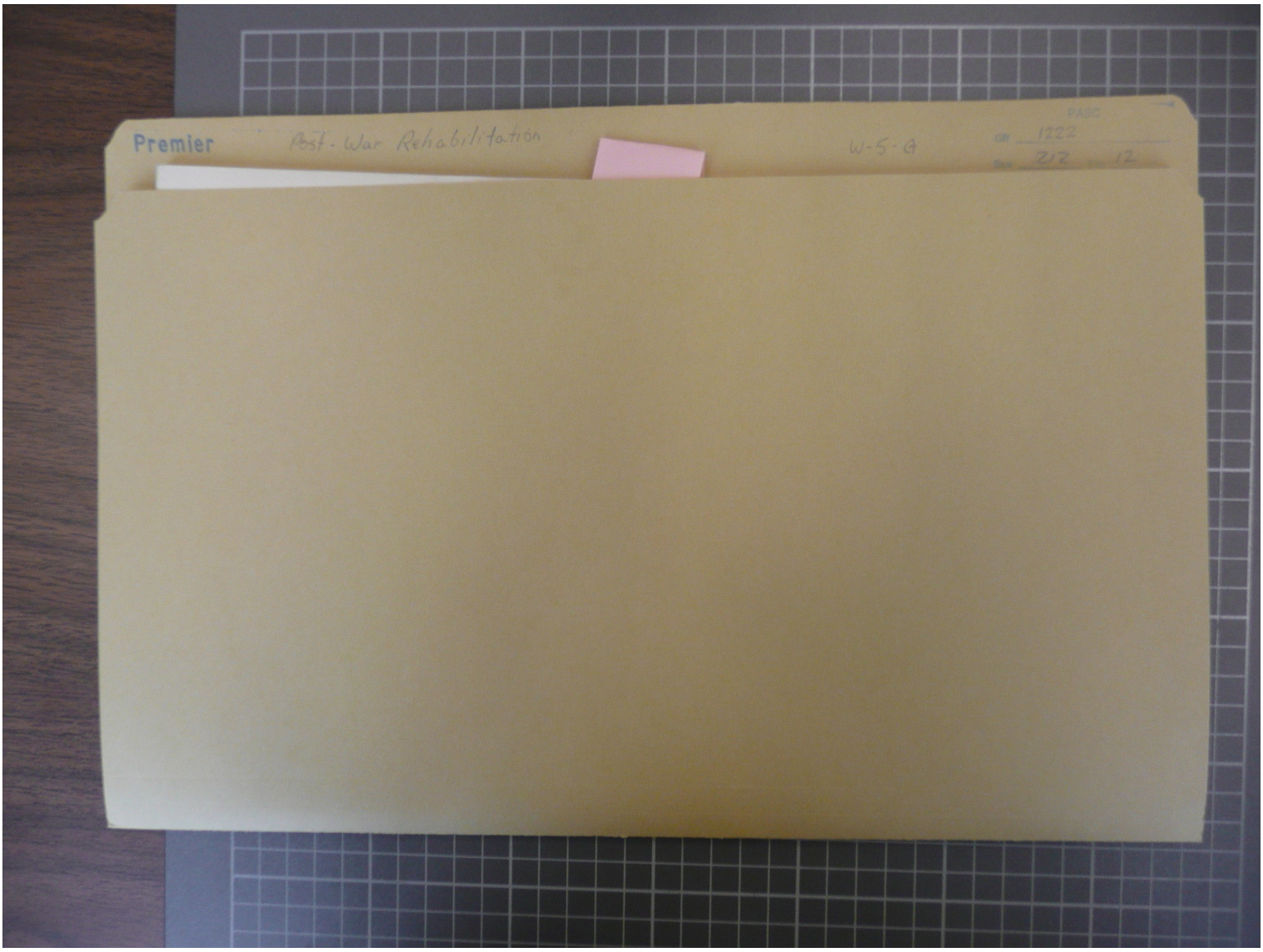

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BERRY GROWING

Inasmuch as Lulu Island with its peat moss bog acreage is adapted to berry culture and that the Federal Government owns a large block that has been lying idle for six years, it is suggested that a rehabilitation scheme might well be established for returned men, each prepared to enter into the growing of blueberries, raspberries, black currants and cranberries. A product of this kind already has received the approval of the Dominion Horticulturist as a land settlement measure.

An Inter-departmental Committee on Agriculture and Land Settlement was set up and a programme of work made out for its members. The Inter-departmental Committee, however, has not been able as yet to report extensively on the matters and briefs referred to them.

FISHERIES

British Columbia's fishing industry is managed and regulated on a sustained yield basis so that the quantity of fishing that may be taken in any one year is limited. It is a highly competitive business. The Council studied the principal factors in production cost on a unit system upon which the economy of the industry is based.

Prior to the war there were many more men engaged in fishing than were necessary. The retail price of most species had reached the maximum that would permit competition with other protein foods. This resulted in continuous strife between fishermen and operators. Prior to the war there was considerable agitation to the withdrawal of the Japanese from the industry, therefore, the position of Japanese in respect to this industry requires examination. Prior to hostilities, less than 14% of the total fishing licences were issued to Japanese. The slack caused by their removal from the Coast districts has been taken up to a great extent but their removal has not lessened the total production. Practically the entire fleet of Japanese-owned vessels have been disposed of to white fishermen or fishing companies.

This Council is of the opinion that these people should not be permitted to re-enter the Fisheries of British Columbia.

The Council examined with interest the very successful white Fishermen's Co-operative Association operating on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

The responsibility for the rehabilitation of the sockeye salmon runs to the Fraser River has been placed in the hands of an International Commission. One of the most important problems being investigated is the free passage to salmon past

Hell's Gate on the Fraser.

Investigation of existing fish packing plants, smoke houses, and equipment discloses no shortage of these facilities. However, there are no hydrogenation plants in British Columbia and it is possible that material benefit would accrue to the industry from the establishment of such a plant. A schedule is included in the report which shows the diversity equipment used in the fishing industry and how much of this could be provided by British Columbia enterprises.

Fibre Flax is used for gill-nets and efforts are now being made to establish this industry in British Columbia.

FISHERMEN AND VETERANS' LAND ACT

It is interesting to note that the provision of the Fishermen and Veterans' Land Act has been extended to include fishermen and the sale to them of property and fishing equipment.

FISHERIES RESEARCH

While private companies and the Dominion Government do experimental work the Provincial Government has no fisheries research organization, although it does support certain branches of this work. It is felt the Government should encourage fisheries research in every way possible, inasmuch as this work is a pre-requisite to sound fisheries management. Such research could cover matters appertaining to sustained yield, production, headwaters, reforestation, harm done to spoiling by power development, harm done by pollution, oceanography, catch statistics, sustained yield in freshwater fisheries, artificial propagation, and general research involving food organisms, stream and lake conditions, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expansion of research to acquire scientific facts on which regulations should be based to permit only that portion of the species to be taken which is not required to perpetuate its kind, thus assuring a continuance of the species.
2. That a forestry policy be established to protect salmon-spawning streams from a too rapid run-off.
3. That in the development of power, irrigation and in regard to all stream obstructions safeguards be provided to protect migrating fish.
4. Enforcement of the laws providing for the safeguarding of salmon and other fish from the effects of pollution.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The dependency of British Columbia's industrial development upon her four basic industries is made obvious by statistics presented in this report. However, manufacturing in this Province accounts for a smaller proportion of the total value of production than in the other leading Provinces in Canada. The importance of British Columbia's forests to industries is shown by the fact that 40% of the gross value of manufacturing consists of manufactured wood and paper products. The net value of manufacturing production rose from approximately $113,000,000 in 1920, to almost $154,000,000 in 1928. It declined during the depression but has since risen to an estimated total of $150,000,000 in 1941.

NEW INDUSTRIES

It has not been possible to study all the suggestions submitted with respect to new industries, but careful consideration has been given to the following: sugar beet; plastics; fibre flax; medicinal plants, diatomaceous earth and iron and steel.

One approach to studying the possibility of new industry is to examine our imports. Its field of study reveals many c annels which might be developed, since under ten main headings ranging from vegetable food products to mineral and chemical products, British Columbia in 1938 imported $65,777,205 of goods much of which should have been produced in this Province.

SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY

There has been a disinclination on the part of private enterprise to enter this field although there is no question about the physical capacity of many areas in British Columbia to grow sugar beets. Factors contributing to this disinclination would seem to be as follows:

1. That there is some doubt as to whether the Province has enough acres of deep loam to make the industry self-supporting, the annual acreage required being 23,000 acres with a potential area of 92,000 acres to permit crop rotation.
2. A deficiency of inexpensive farm labour. Competition to be faced from the refined canesugar industry and the possibility of a surplus of sugar cane production after the war.

In view of these circumstances the Council does not feel that this product could be considered as a rehabilitation measure.