

MR. J. W. HUME, PORT ANGELES, WASH.,

AUGUST 4, 1895.

(Interviewed by Richard Rathbun).

Q. There has been complaint made that the fishing on Point Roberts interfered with the business of the Fraser River, and the question is whether they might not be hurting their own interests?

A. Well, the feeling is very much against them, but I have nothing against those people, but at the same time I dont see why they have not the right to catch fish in the traps there as long as there is no State law to prohibit them, and I dont see any reason why the Canadians should object. There is a very great prejudice against the Point Roberts Packing Company I know, and while I have no interest in the company, my uncle was the largest individual stockholder in it, but he is now sold out and has gone to Japan to locate some fisheries. I met Mr. Wilcox twice, and found him a very nice gentleman, and gave him all the information I knew. There are some things here that are

contradictory; there is a great many tyee salmon here, and they are as fine a fish as you can find anywhere on the Pacific coast, but they are a very light color, but they are just as fat and nice as any red salmon you ever saw, and those fish are thrown away. I have seen them at Point Roberts throw away 400 or 500 a day, and that is something that should be stopped.

Q. Now, at Point Roberts the complaint is not so much against the pound net fishing, as to the manner in which the pound nets, some of them, have been placed. Have you been there this year?

A. No, sir.

Q. At the southeast corner they have run out a pound net about a mile according to their sworn statement. Now, there are 3 pots on that, and it runs from high water mark out to the end without any break whatsoever; it covers the whole extent of the reef which runs out there, and the question is whether they should not give the salmon some chance to run; that is, if they put in others the same way; long continuous strings of pound nets; should not they have some

break in them? Of course, take the sockeye salmon, they are dependent upon the Fraser River for the breeding of those salmon, and whether it is not to their interest to see that they dont take all the fish there. Of course if anything is done it must be mutual.

A. Well, the Alaska Association is a corporation and they are generally cold blooded.

Q. Mr. Drysdale, unfortunately, was sick, so that we have nothing from him We talked with Mr. Wadhams and Kirby; so that I was very sorry not to get a thorough statement of their side of the matter. Of course, in the Fraser River they have given about 2,000 licenses for drift nets this year -- that would be 2,000 nets 150 fathoms each, which is a pretty extensive fishery, and supplies something over 30 canneries. Point Roberts does not supply more than one cannery in the Freaser River.

A. Yes, it is very one-sided I will admit, but at the same time Point Roberts had the best of it; that location is what gives it the advantage. Well, there is a way to limit the

lead of the traps so as to make it a certain length, and that would remedy that.

Q. Certainly. It is not to curtail the industry in any way; the more salmon that are taken in the proper way the better.

A. Yes, I see; it is to prevent ruining the business.

Q. Now, we understand that the sockeye which enter the Fraser River come through the Straits of Fuca, and that the sockeyes which enter some of the rivers and streams on the north part of Vancouver Island come the other way, but that they never mix; that there are some salmon come around the north part of Vancouver Island and go into a few of those streams.

A. On the northeastern side you mean?

Q. Yes.

A. Then they dont get to the Fraser River from that direction?

Q. No.

A. I see. When I was at Point Roberts there seemed to be just one trap doing all the fishing, and that was right out on that reef.

There was no question in my mind but they are

doing all they can to ruin the fishing industry. Now, on the Columbia we have been a little careful there of late years, although not as much as we should be. The laws are strict enough; of course Washington failed to come in with Oregon and make certain laws, and they overlooked the whole business, and ignore the law at the present time, but it has only been the last season that they have done that. We have the finest fishing section that one would want to find; that is over on the Columbia River, but over here they are doing all they can to ruin it because there are hundreds of fish thrown away. A great many of the fish they get on the Columbia River they get here, and they happen to come from a different feeding ground and are white in color.

Q. You dont have white ones on the Columbia River at all?

A. No, sir; but because they are not the proper color they throw them away. If the people could gather up the heads, tails, etc., to say nothing of the white ones we throw away, you could not keep the beggars away. There

would be thousands of them around our establishment every day. I stood right on the Point Roberts dock last year and I saw from 300 to 500 salmon thrown overboard every day I was there, and I spent a week there, and the Indians went and picked those fish up with spears and dried them for their winter's supply. That is some of them. You know that is not right.

Q. What could they do with those white salmon?

A. Why, they can sell them if they would put them in cans.

Q. It is a curious natural history feature.

A. Well, I dont know anything else to lay it to but their feeding grounds. I know the salmon we have down on the Rogue River -- my unde has control of that river, because he owns 15,000 acres of land on each side of the river. He built a hatchery at his own expense and propagated the fish. He propagated 2,000,000 last year. Those salmon down there are a kind of yellow pink, while the Columbias are a deep red, but those fish down there feed on a little kind of a clam without any shell, and that is what gives them that color, but here the salmon

feed on fish altogether. I am inclined to think that it is the food they live on that gives them the color, but I may be mistaken, you understand, as it is only my idea.

Q. Where is Rogue River?

A. It is in the southern part of Oregon, about 60 miles north of the California line. My uncle there can give you more information on salmon than anybody that lives, because he has been in the business for 35 years.

Q. You spoke of an uncle going to Japan?

A. Yes; George W. Hume.

Q. Did you know Mr. T from Eastport, Maine, who went to Japan as a fishery commissioner there some years ago?

A. No, I did not.

Q. He went there to help the government in the development of some fisheries there, either to make notes of some fishes that could be utilized or to help them introduce methods of preparation, and I think his son used to be there or on this coast.

A. Well, if he was here perhaps my uncle ran across him. I know we have been looking at that section of country for 20 odd years, but

have never made a break for there until recently

Q. Now, the general feeling about the sockeye coming through the Straits is -- what we found out from the Canadians -- there is Captain Gaudin, you have seen him have you not?

A. No, I never met him.

Q. Somebody has seen him on your part with regard to your purse seine.

A. I sent my clerk there.

Q. Now, Gaudin was in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company here and has been here for a great many years, and has been interested in the fishing, and interested as a pilot for a great many years, and he has fished at Clallam Bay and Neah Bay and through there, and it has been his impression that the sockeye enter on the south side, and he was quite confident that they come up the south side part way towards Clallam Bay and then went across?

A. Well, that is just my idea, but I don't know but I will know before the season is over.

Q. Then the first place they find them abundant is at Becher Bay?

A. That is just my opinion, but whether I am right, I don't know. And I will tell you

what makes me think so. In the first place there is the Quinault River, and I know the same quality of fish we get in the Quinault River we get right here, and that shows the fish come in from the southward, and I know the schools of fish they have seen there in the month of July, and I know of no fish that come here in the month of July but the sockeyes. But they dont come up so far as Clallam Bay, but they come up here (map) and then strike across to Becher Bay and Race Rocks.

Q. He said you asked how far you could go on the other side in fishing, and that he was not certain at all, but advised you not to come inside the 3 mile limit.

A. He did? The clerk did not tell me that. But my clerk went to Mr. Miller of the customs house, and Mr. Miller said he knew of no law preventing us from going there and fishing, but he would write on and find out.

Q. Now, I am afraid that they are not going to let you fish there. Gaudin will fix it all right according to his promise, but Canada comes down to the boundary line and there is no high seas inside the Straits of Fuca. The reason he

did not know that was that the general fishery law prohibits it. The fishery law of British Columbia which he is carrying out makes no mention of it, but the general fishery law of Canada does. Now, when you come to the Great Lakes, and the boundary line on this side and the boundary line in salt water on the other side, you go to mid-water between the two, and according to their general fishery law any American fishing on the Canadian side can be seized. In the Great Lakes it is the same way, and this year and last year they seized a great many American fishermen. They were doing the same thing on the St. Croix River and around Eastport, Maine, and a commission was appointed just to lay out the boundary line there, and the fishermen know how just what is expected of them, but up to that time they had great trouble with petty arrests; a pleasure party could not go out and fish; if they got over the line a revenue boat would come out and seize them. Now, Gaudin will protect you until he hears from Ottawa. Of course there is nothing to prevent you buying fish on that side.

A. That is just the point, that we are

going to work to buy fish. There is no duty on the fish and after talking the matter over, we concluded the best thing we could do was to go on that side and employ the fishermen. We will have to pay a license on our boats, but that is only a trifle. From what Mr. Miller has told me, I was of the opinion that they would give me no trouble at all until they were notified what to do.

Q. I am very anxious to see whether you will get fish down this way or not.

A. We will not get the sockeye down this way.

Q. No; I mean down at Cape Flattery.

A. Well, I dont think we will get any down there either. Unless we get some tomorrow I dont think we will get any this year, it is too late. I am satisfied that the humpbacks, silver sides, and what they call the tye salmon here, we will get our share of them on this side.

Q. Yes; the humpback and silver side, and the tye; and now how about the dog salmon?

A. Well, we get those here too.

Q. You put those up?

A. Yes, they did put them up, but they are not a very good fish, but there is a demand for them, as some buyers always want something for nothing, and we have to give it to them.

Q. Of course you know what Mr. Myers of Seattle is doing?

A. Yes; Mr. Myers never did pack good salmon, but he is making money out of it, and it is all right.

Q. According to what we have learned about here, the other salmon besides the sockeyes run abundantly through here?

A. Oh, yes; I don't think there is any question about that.

Q. But can you do much with the purse seines here?

A. Well, it has never been successful so far on sockeyes, but with the silver salmon and humpback it is successful.

Q. In these open waters?

A. Yes, sir. Well, wherever they school. You know they all have their reefs to go to, and wherever we find them it is a success, but we find one thing: that the trap works a great deal better than a purse seine.

Q. Well, would a trap amount to anything about here?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. You could not use it on the shore here?

A. Oh, yes, indeed.

Q. Would the salmon skirt the shore close enough?

A. Well, you can go out from the shore you know. When you get out in 10 fathoms of water it is all right. You take a very strong current here and the fish will not swim very far out in the Straits. They will hug the shore.

Q. The salmon, I suppose, do not go out far?

A. Well, it depends a good deal upon the stage of the tide, but take a strong tide and it is perfectly natural for them to skirt the shore, but if there is not a strong current they will go out farther in deep water. They dont allow any traps at all in British waters do they?

Q. Oh, yes; they allow them in Boundary Bay, around Point Roberts.

A. There is no question in my mind but what it is just as fair for them to use pound

nets as it is for the Americans, and that is the only way for the Canadians to get around it.

Q. Do you know about the movements of the fish through the San Juan Islands? -- the pound nets there seem to be doing well.

A. They have had a very good business there.

Q. Yes, I understand up at the southern end of San Juan Island.

A. Yes; the fishermen tell me they strike in at the southern end of San Juan Island. They split at the south end of San Juan Island, some going up through Haro Strait and some up the other way, and the balance of them go up this way (referring to map). Canecka? Bay is a very good point. Lummi Island, at Village Point, is one of the finest fishing points in the world. They seem to split up; that is what the men tell me.

Q. Of course there is good fishing on the outer side of Vancouver Island? Take Barclay Sound, the fish run up into several places there. There is an inlet there that runs up into a lake, where the sockeye run in. They have established a cannery there this year, and

it might be possible to get fish from there.

A. Do you know who it was?

Q. No; but I can find out.

A. What is the name of the place, Barclay Sound?

Q. Yes.

(Look up about the cannery on Kennedy River or Lake, emptying into Barclay Sound, for Mr. Hume's information).

A. You spoke awhile ago about Purse seines and asked me if I expected to catch the fish with purse seines. Purse seines dont seem to work very successfully with sockeyes. I suppose as good a fisherman as there is in this section only caught a few fish this year, and he followed the schools right up. But with the silver sides and dog fish (salmon?) they are a success. There is 2 ways of catching the sockeyes; one is with reef nets and the other is with traps. Drift nets will not catch them at all until they get into brackish water. You cannot get them where the water is clear because they can see too well.

Q. The drift net is used in the Fraser River and at the mouth of the Fraser River

wherever the water is discolored, but when you come to the Nimkish, and I think the Skeena at any rate, the Canadian Government has been obliged to allow them to use seines.

A. Dont they allow any seines in British waters here?

Q. Only with the rivers at the north.

Why I asked all about the purse seines was that around Point Roberts they claimed they did not fish well, and, of course, that would be taking sockeyes.

A. Now, that is a mistake somewhere, because I know a man I had to work for me fished a seine on the British side, in Cowichan Bay; a purse seine.

Q. When did he do that?

A. I think it was 2 years ago. That is what we were applying for to use purse seines there.

Q. What has been the history, in a general way, of the Columbia River, and if any fault there, what has been the fault?

A. The fault is they never could, any two of them, seem to agree, and when they have come together, politics as much as anything else has

stopped them from making laws. They have passed some very good laws here and have enforced them for a while, but Washington refuses to make any laws; the Alaska Association undoubtedly has prevented Washington from passing any laws there which would eventually be a benefit to the State, and then Oregon would have obeyed her laws, but as Washington does not, and as much of the Columbia River is on the Washington side as on the Oregon side, they dont feel like letting the fish go up on the Oregon side and letting the Washington people take them.

Q. Does the Alaska Company have any interest in the Columbia River proper?

A. No; they have not in the Columbia River but they have in Point Roberts, and when they pass a law in Washington to prohibit trap fishing it covers Point Roberts.

Q. Of course, they have got around Point Roberts, too, in this way, that the law made for Puget Sound was decided not to apply to the more northern waters of the Gulf of Georgia.

A. Yes; a very good law would be to allow them to use traps or seines or any method of

catching fish in reason, you understand, that they might wish to, but so many days in a week they should not fish.

Q. You believe in a weekly close period?

A. Yes, sir, and that is a good law. Now they make it 24 hours, and if they would make it 48 hours it would give those fish a chance. But, now, when it comes to limiting a man, as you said a while ago, in the British waters they cannot fish with gill nets; and now to limit them to gill nets would be a hardship. I believe in fishing pound nets for this reason. I was opposed to them at one time. But when you abolish the seines you put the business in the hands of men who have ruined the business. I have seen lots of good men ruined by fishing traps.

Q. Now, on the Fraser River the canneries and the others who use fish by the wholesale are protected, and yet the single fisherman is given employment. Only gill nets are used there, but each canneryman is allowed 20. Each man who packs salmon in ice for shipment is allowed a certain number, and then when you get beyond those men, each fisherman is allowed one net, so

it gives the cannermen the means of collecting their own fish to so large an extent that they control the business. As I remember the map of the Columbia River made a year or two ago in which all the traps are put down, the traps are very seldom connected together; that is to say, there are passage ways all around them. They dont run out and cover an extended area, the leader and trap following one another without intervals between?

A. No, they dont make their leads so long as they do at Point Roberts, but it is a fact that the fish on the Columbia River will not lead so far as they will up this way.

Q. That is tyee?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the difference between the sockeye and the blue back?

A. Well, I can see no difference. I think they are the same thing, and they look more like each other than any other fish I have seen.

Q. We have been working on the Columbia River for 2 or 3 years. We have one party on the Red Fish lakes in Idaho and another on Payette Lake in Idaho, with the contiguous

waters. Now, the tyee and steelhead at least go up there, and I think the blue back salmon go up there too. Of course one of the main objects of our work has been to determine if possible where eggs can be obtained in the extreme upper waters; either to establish a hatchery there or to obtain eggs to send to other hatcheries. This year we have 6 or 7 men in there and they will stay there until winter, some of them, to keep track of the salmon in those upper waters, and the work is done strictly from a scientific standpoint. They have their nets there, etc., and will try to get accurate knowledge of the spawning habits of the fish up there. Has your family given up the Columbia River altogether?

A. Well, nearly so; William Hume, ~~was~~ the original canneryman, is still there, but he is the only one.

Q. Of course, it is a name I have always heard longest associated with the salmon of the Columbia River.

A. Yes; George has now gone to Japan and my uncle is at Rogue River.

Q. There used to be a cannery at Clallam

Bay didn't there?

A. Yes; one of my relatives started there, but it was a failure. They did not know anything about them and did not get them. There is a fishery started now down at the Hoko? and the people here talk about what a wonderful river that is, and it is only a little stream that you can step across almost, and the biggest catch they have ever caught there was 200 barrels in a season, and that is 800 cases of fish.

Q. There has been a great deal of prejudice against the wheels in the Columbia River; what is your idea of the wheel?

A. Well, I will tell you, when you come to seine or trap or wheel, they are all detrimental to the business, and so is a gill net when you come down to that, but they will catch smaller fish than a gill net, but if you limit the business to gill netting it is not a profitable business; that is why I am in favor of say 48 hours of a week lying off, and enforce the law and see that no fish are caught during that time, and that would give the fish a show.

I believe in using all the modern appliances to catch the fish, because you have got to keep up with the times. Foreigners would go to work and invent something whereby they could come into the market and compete with us and shut us out if you dont. Of course when you make a 2 or 3 inch mesh net or trap you are bound to corral more or less small fish, but it can be avoided. It is very few small salmon that is caught anyway in proportion to the large ones. They dont go there until they mature anyway.

Q. In connection with the Fraser River, I dont see how it can be otherwise; we cannot get track of anything but good mature fish.

A. Yes; well it is the same way practically on the Columbia River; we get very few. You take a trap and you make the mesh large like you would a gill net and it would be a failure.

Q. For what reason?

A. Because the fish would gill, and you cannot catch them. You can catch them all right in the gill net, but you cannot in the trap. And it is the same with the seines, the

mesh has to be small to keep them from gilling.

Q. Of course you know nothing about the salt water fishes here, the halibut fishery, of course?

A. No, I dont know anything about that farther than that there are plenty of them. In fact, in these Straits here, there are more fish than these people have any idea of. They dont know what is here. This is the richest fishing country that ever I struck in my life.

Q. Of course, in a measure this is like a tremendous river with the mouth here at Cape Flattery.

A. Yes, exactly.

Q. The fish are starting up a salt water river, which turns fresh after a while, and it is so wide and deep that the fish cannot fill the stream at all.

A. I think when you get up to San Juan and meet Mr. Devlin, he can give you a good deal of information on this business. He is at Friday Harbor.

Q. Now, with the blue back salmon in the Columbia River, do you ever see spent ones there

A. No.

Q. Do those fish all die?

A. Well, now, that is a question I could not answer for the blue backs, but I know that salmon when they are able to, return to the salt water. That is the tyee, silver side, and any other salmon I have ever seen, but the blue back I cannot say I have ever seen them on the way to the ocean again, but almost every other salmon I have, but I suppose they go back the same as any other fish if they can get back, you understand.

Q. That is, you dont think they naturally die up there?

A. No, sir, but the conditions are such that most of them die. I have been out there fishing and sometimes I would see a salmon on the surface, and generally it would be an old one.

Q. That has been a puzzler on the Fraser River. I think the principal thing is that none of them get back, of the sockeyes, as we have been trying to get track of spent sockeyes, which we have never been able to do.

A. Well, I dont know about the sockeye and the blue backs; I never saw one of them on the way to the ocean, but almost all others I have. You take it in the months of December and January and you will find them just heading on flood tide towards the current, and on the ebb tide they keep right on down the same, and they just keep wiggling slowly along; they are almost blind and all covered with sores, but when they get to salt water they brighten up and are all right.

Q. What are the salmon you have in the Columbia River? You have the tyee, blue back and steelhead?

A. Yes; and the silver side, and then what they call the calico salmon there. It is what some people call a dog salmon. It is a pink colored fish; very light pink.

Q. You have, then, practically all the fish they have here?

A. Yes, the same kind they have here, only their large run of fish on the Columbia are the tyee.

Q. Do any of the other varieties go up in great abundance at all?

A. Oh, yes; there are a great many steel-heads, blue backs, and a great many which would go up.

Q. Did you ever see a young shad?

m A. Oh, yes; I paid \$2.50 for the first shad caught on the Columbia River, about 15 inches long, and my uncle said it was a genuine Kennebec shad, and from that time on we commenced to catch shad, and now we get them 6 or 7 lbs., plenty of them.

Q. Do they have the line of spots along the back?

A. They have the lines there.

Q. Well, there are several spots as big as your finger nail forming a line on each side, have you noticed that?

A. Well, I dont think I have.

Q. I should like to see those shad, for this reason: that on the Atlantic side, south the shad are plain, and when you get up on the coast of Maine and Nova Scotia they take on these spots, and the shad that were plain there were the southern variety.

A. Yes? Well, I never saw a spot on them

that I know of. The shad here come from California, and they have kept coming up this coast, and they are a little different in the different streams.

Q. There is no difference in the species on the Atlantic coast, between the two species, only a difference in color between the southern and northern variety.

A. What is the color of those spots?

Q. Oh, it is blackish spots; not black, but like printing in of a faint black.

A. Well, I dont remember of ever seeing any black spots on shad. In fact, shad are something I dont know much about anyway.

Q. Do your blue backs run the same time in the Columbia River that the sockeyes do here?

A. No; they run sooner.

Q. Is the tyee here as large a fish on an average as it is in the Columbia River?

A. Yes; the only difference I see in the fish is that some have a first rate color and other are white. Some are as white as paper, but they are just as nice a fish as any, and you blindfold a man and give him a white one

and he cannot tell the difference to save his life.

Q. Do you get many whitefish in the spring here?

A. Yes, there are a good many more here than are caught. They have never made a business of catching those. They get a larger proportion in the fall, but they get them in the spring also because I have been catching them ever since I have been here.

Q. I dont see why someone would not invent a color for staining them as they do butter?

A. Well, that eventually will be done.

Q. I have talked with 2 or 3 persons who have sent the white fish to market apparently as the same price as the red fish and they claim they have never been able to market them at all.

A. Yes? Well, now, that is hardly so; I know there is a demand for white fish. Well, I will tell you, that it depends a great deal upon what it is sold for. If you sell it for what it is it goes, but if you misrepresent the goods it is different, and the buyer will not stand by the sale, that is all.

Q. How would this fish go in the southern

States? That is where Mr. Myers says he ships the most of his.

A. well, I suppose he does, but there will be lots of those fish used up in the northern States also.

Q. Why should not those white salmon be sent on ice from this region; would not they do better fresh than canned?

A. Well, as you said a few minutes ago, you take a salmon and everybody expects it to be red, and it dont look any better than a piece of halibut or any other fish if it is white, while if it has a color it gives it kind of a tone. There are thousands of people that buy salmon that dont know whether it is salmon or sturgeon. There does not seem to be any limit to the amount of salmon that can be marketed fresh from this side earlier than a certain period, and after the salmon begin to come in from the eastern coast of course there is not the market, but before that there is no limit to the amount of salmon that could be marketed. In the New York market you will find immense quantities of salmon from this side, and the

fish look as well as the fish from that side.

Q. A month before I came over here I was in the salmon region on the Nova Scotia coast, and they are certainly a beautiful fish when they are caught in the salt water there.

A. Are they as large as our fish here?

Q. No, not as large as the tye. The largest I saw they were getting there then was 15 or 20 lbs., but I think on the St John River the fish mainly run up to 30 lbs., perhaps and in the smaller rivers they are small -- 10 to 15 lbs., etc. The fish we saw did not belong to the rivers on the coast where we saw them. Do you know to what extent salmon have been found off the coast here, outside?

A. Well, there has been schools of fish struck off the coast here 20 or 30 miles, and they supposed that they were salmon, but they dont know positively whether they were or not, but the supposition was that they were salmon, but whether they were or not could not tell.

Q. Is there any fishery off the Columbia River, clear down in the water outside the mouth?

A. No; they dont pretend to catch them on

the outside coast, but I think they will come to that by and by.

Q. The water gets deep there doesn't it?

A. Well, no; it goes off gradually; not suddenly like it is here.

Q. How does the abundance of salmon at present in the Columbia River compare with what it used to be?

A. Well, it is not as great at the present time. They have packed about 250,000 cases of blue backs and steelheads on that river, while years ago we would come very near discharging a man for having the blue backs or steelheads on the dock, because in the palmy days we would not look at them.

Q. Well, the tyee has decreased also?

A. Oh, yes; we used to pack about 650,000 cases there. In 1880 and 1881, about 650,000 cases of the tyee, but now if you are getting 500,000 cases or 250,000 of tyees, or say 300,000 cases, you are getting a big pack. There is no question but what they are going to wipe them off the Columbia. They are certainly decreasing, and how can they increase, they are not propagating any fish there. In 1864 two of

my uncles started a cannery on the -----River That is the first cannery started on the Pacific coast, and they packed 3,000 cases of fish, and they packed there 2 years and salmon began to get scarce and they came to the Columbia River in 1866, and in 1867 they packed the first fish there, about 4,000 cases, and their business continued to increase, and for about 10 years they controlled the salmon market of the world, but it got to be too much competition for them, and they could not control it any longer.

But those days, and even after, there was a good many salmon in the Sacramento River, but to-day what is it? They used to pack 250,000 cases, and if you are getting 10,000 now you are getting a big pack. You take the history of all ~~in~~ of these rivers and civilization knocks every one of them, but propagation is a success and should be encouraged, as it is the only thing that can protect the fishing business. I know my uncle at Rogue River went down there 19 years ago and he invested \$150,000 in that section of country before he knew what was there and the first season he packed 3,000 cases of salmon, and that meant a big loss; the next year

he packed about 4,000 and the following year about 3,000 cases, but the second year he was there he started a hatchery and it cost him \$2,000., and he commenced propagating fish and his pack began to increase, and I was there 4 years ago, and he made a pack of 21,000 cases all straight goods. They were type salmon altogether.

Q. I suppose some other species run in there?

A. Oh, there are lots of steelhead run in there, and the finest steelheads I ever saw in my life.

Q. The steelhead has a good color?

A. Yes, but not as good a color as the salmon, but they are a nice fish. You can get your hat half full of fat from their entrails; that is a large one.

Q. What is done with the offal from the fish on the Columbia River?

A. Well, now they are making oil out of the heads, fins, tails, etc., but eventually every head, tail and fin will be salted and saved and put on the market. You take a salmon

head and it is the best part of the fish, and it is thrown away, and it is a shame.

Q. Did they use to throw the offal in the water?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do they do so now at all?

A. Well, they do some, but not so much as they did.

Q. Is there a law against it on the Columbia?

A. I dont believe there is. The oil works there, they send boats around and take the heads and entrails away from there. They are dropped underneath the dock in a big rack built on an incline, and they fill it up and shove it right out into the boat.

Q. Do you think the letting of the refuse go into the water in large quantities does any harm to the run of fish?

A. Well, I dont know as it does.

Q. There is a law against it on the Fraser River, but it is not lived up to. Now they allow it to go in the river, but only pending the completion of the oil factory there, and the cannerymen there think it is not doing any harm

to the river, providing it is put in the current of the river. Certainly the salmon are running there still, and there seems to be no diminution of the fish from the putting in of the offal.

A. Well, that is a question that I am not posted on.

Q. Do you have other pollutions in the Columbia River, such as saw mills?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is your idea of the relation of saw dust to salmon?

A. It is a bad thing. All such stuff as saw dust, or any other filth, should not be thrown into the river, for this reason, especially when you get up towards the headwaters, because when a fish spawns the eggs must be free from every bit of filth, because if dirt collects on that egg worms will hatch there and will eat up the egg and kill it. The egg must be just as clean as when it is taken from the fish and hatched out. Now, you take it in the hatchery when the water is running over those eggs, every day we take those eggs up and pick out the white ones and throw them away, and if we see a spot on it we pick that speck off, if

we dont it will kill the egg.

Q. What is your idea of the effect on the salmon, directly; does it affect them directly?

A. Well, I dont think it has a good effect Fish like good, clear water, you know, and this saw dust business and such stuff is a bad thing.

Q. Those saw mills on the St. Croix River are all below the spawning grounds, so they dont affect the spawning grounds, and we are having difficulty in deciding what effect that saw dust may have on the salmon in attempting to reach the spawning grounds.

A. Well, civilization kills all fish and game.

Q. How are the sturgeon on the Columbia River?

A. Why they have been catching tons upon tons of them for the last 10 years. Why, sturgeon, formerly we would not have such things around us, but there is a good market for them now. When I was up here prospecting last fall I was on the Fraser River, and going down on the steamer there was a couple of fellows sitting there and they were cursing the Indians; they

were just giving them fits because they came up their streams and were catching their trade.

Q. How far up the Columbia River do you know of quinnat salmon getting?

A. Just as far as one can get.

Q. Up into Canada?

A. Well, very close on it. They go just as long as there is breath in them to go, until they spawn.

Q. I came across an engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and he had found salmon up in the Rockies in the uppermost of the Canadian lakes, and he said they were ~~quinnat~~ abundant at one time, but during recent years they found very few at all.

A. Yes; that is right. There is no question but what the tyee will go up; wherever there is enough water for them to go they will go.

Q. If you were going to regulate the fisheries on the Columbia River how would you do it to-day?

A. Well, that is a pretty hard question. I believe in a Saturday night law more than

anything else, only instead of making it only 24 hours make it two 24 hours -- make it 48 hours, and then let them use their traps and seines, wheels and gill nets if they want to.

Q. How about a yearly close season?

A. Well, I dont believe in that.

Q. They have one now dont they?

A. Oh, yes; but that is just when there are no fish, and it does not amount to anything. I believe in taxing every canneryman so much per case and every fisherman so much for their boat, which would furnish a revenue, and which is to go to the propagation of salmon. Now, Oregon thinks that the Government ought to build a hatchery and keep it up. Well, now, the Government is not making as much money off that as the Oregon people are. If Oregon and Washington would come together and make similar laws taxing every trap, seine and gill net and every fisherman so much, and every canneryman so much per case, whatever he should pack, the same to be turned into a pool for the purpose of propagating fish, and then elect their fish commissioner every year and his assistants, and keep that thing up, it will be all right. That

is the only way to keep up the fishing industry, in my opinion.

Q. Over what length of the river is the fishing carried on in the Columbia River mainly, leaving out the wheels at the Dalles? In the main part of the river what is the distance up the river that the fishing is carried on, from the mouth?

A. Well, 20 miles, the main part of it extends.

Q. Would the salmon run through the whole system of nets in that time?

A. Well, when they are traveling right along salmon will go 30 or 40 miles a day without any trouble, and you take a salmon and let him come in the streams here over Saturday night, and there shall be no more fishing until the next Monday night, he has 48 hours start and he gets up the river where there are few nets, and they will not catch the quantity out of those that they would. There would be more left than there would be if they had been fishing right along from Astoria on up, because they have to pass the largest fishing at Astoria.

Q. There is no such weekly close season now?

A. No; there is after the 10th day of August, but there are no fish there after that.

Q. When do the tyee run? You have two general runs do you not?

A. No, only one.

Q. Dont you have a fall run?

A. Yes; but we consider the spring fish there as the fall fish.

Q. Is nothing done with them?

A. Oh, yes; they pack them, but they are not like the spring fish, although they are a very good fish.

Q. Do you know anything about the Clackamas River in Oregon; what fish go up there, the spring fish?

A. Well, yes. I will tell you what I know about that: The fish that go up there are the first fish you get; those that come first, that go up the Willimette River, but you take it about the 10th day of May, after that there is no more fish go up there; they all go up the main Columbia. In the first place, the Clackamas River is no place for a hatchery

for this reason; that they are not on the path of the fish. Now, you take it up about The Dalles and from there up anywhere there where you can get the water and the location, is an excellent place for a hatchery, but you take it in the Clackamas River, a branch of the Columbia is simply out of the place, because a fish will get back where he is brought up.

Q. That is why we have been at work on that thing for the last 3 years; we simply keep up those observations until we can work out those habits pretty thoroughly, and it all has reference to the report upon the advantages of the different branches of the stream for fish hatching. Most of the fish hatcheries in the country were put in before anything was really known about the habits of the fish to which they relate. Of course on the Atlantic coast we are improving, because there have been more observations made there, but many of the hatcheries were put in hastily without proper examinations being made, and of course the Columbia is the most important river on the western coast, because we want to make an object lesson of it

if we can, and no extended reports have been made on the Columbia because nothing has been finished.

A. Well, Oregon and Washington are going to be sorry some day if they dont come together and have the same law and tax the canneries; and suppose they tax them 5 cents a case -- supposing it was 1 cent a case, and they pack 500,000 cases a year; well, now, you know, there is quite a little sum; and then if you have traps tax them \$5.00 and for seines \$5.00 and for fishing boats \$2.50. There is at least \$10,000 or \$15,000, if not more. They can propagate 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 fish a year with that just as easy as not and nobody would feel it.

Q. How many fish are taken, on an average in a year?

A. Well, 500,000 cases and 3 fish to the case -- 1,500,000 fish. Now, if you only use 1,500,000 fish a year and you are propagating 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 a year you are keeping up the supply.

Q. Why can't you propagate more than that?

A. Why, you can if you only keep at it. If there could be a United States law passed

forcing the cannerymen to pay a revenue per case on every case they pack, but I suppose it would have to be a State law. It is for the interest of Oregon and Washington to come together and do that and I am in hopes they will do that soon. Mr. M the fish commissioner, on the Columbia, is a very nice man, but he does not know a salmon from a sucker, and I asked him at one time if he had any experience in the business, and he said no he did not know anything about it, but he said he would do the best he could. We are not up in the fishing business here at all. In fact, the salmon business in the last 20 years has improved really wonderful, but still, to-day we dont know anything about it. My. Myers was fish commissioner of Oregon at one time.

Q. I have been surprised that so little fishing was done on the American side in these waters here?

A. Well, it is because nobody had the sand to start in. Wherever you go there is a different way to catch the fish. On Rogue River they catch the fish different from any

other place I ever saw, and it is the same everywhere.

Q. That place of your uncle's on Rogue River is my ideal of a fishery; the only thing is there are not many places in the country where you can do it.

A. He was burned down 2 years ago, and since then he has not built it, but he is going to now. He sent a man up to the head of the river, but there were so many dams and obstructions up there that he was disgusted and did not do anything with it, but since then the dams, a part of them, have been removed.

Q. You take an oysterman in the east in certain places -- Connecticut and New York -- a man owns the bottom on which the oysters are planted; he owns it in fee simple; he leaves it to his heirs, and he runs it as he would his farm and his money is invested there. If that oyster stock gives out it is his loss, and he is bound to keep it up and he does so; he gets seed oysters from one place and another, and sees that the beds are kept clean, and takes the oysters off of table size, but he always leaves enough for seed, and there is no limit to the

extent of his industry there under those conditions. It is the duty of every State to keep its waters clear. The dam business is what ruined the east coast more than anything else.

A. Yes; the saw mills fix that. You will find Mr. Devlin a very plain fellow and a man who can give you a great deal of information on the Columbia River also as well as here.