

CAPTAIN JAMES GAUDIN, VICTORIA, B. C.

JULY 30, 1895.

(Interviewed by Wm. Wakeham and Richard Rathbun).

Now, Captain, if you will give us a few words as to the extent of your experience in this region?

A. Well, I have not had much experience.

Q. Well, I dont mean that exactly.

A. Well, I first came here in 1865. And then I continued in the vessel service up until 1881, and since that time I have been a resident here, and chiefly connected with the navigation in some shape or another until 1892, when I was appointed to the agency here.

Q. Our questions are not drawn up exactly as Mr. Wilmot had his drawn up, and we would have allowed you a lawyer if we had thought to tell you about it.

A. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Mr. Wilmot.

Wakeham:- He came here once from Manitoba and glanced around and then went back again, and then he made a report which was printed and it

was down on the canning; and then he came over here to hold that inquiry and they had it in for him. They asked that the Department should not send him. I dont blame Mr. Wilmot so much as I blamed Armstrong. He was in the heart of the fishing. He was a Westminster man and he went right dead against them and always sided with Mr. Wilmot. Is Mr. Higgins here now?

A. Yes.

Wakeham:- What does he do?

A. He is speaker of the Provincial Legislature.

Q. Now, of course, Captain, the main thing concerns the fisheries in which the two countries are interested along the border, etc., and naturally it comes down to the salmon, mainly at any rate, which enter the Columbia (Fraser?) River, and which are said to skirt a part of the American coast before going in there. Now, of course we have heard about the canneries on that side and we have questioned the fishermen and cannerymen, etc., and one of the main things we want to get at now are the habits of

these fish outside the river, before they get there, etc.

A. Well, you see, that is a very difficult matter to determine. The thing is that no sufficient attention has been paid to that matter for that purpose, to get a definite opinion about it.

Q. What salmon have you seen in the Straits of Fuca?

A. Well, I have seen all kinds of salmon in the Straits of Fuca. The ones most seen are the smaller salmon, cohos and sockeyes. In these waters around here we never see this humpback salmon that visits the small streams on the coast.

Q. Do you see the dog salmon?

A. No.

Q. You see the spring salmon?

A. We see the spring salmon, and it has been more plentiful this year in the local market than I have ever known it, and of larger size.

Q. Do you see the steelhead?

A. I suppose the steelhead visits the Straits, but it is caught in every fresh water

stream.

Q. Well, now, how about the quinnat or spring salmon? Do you know anything about its movements up the Straits?

A. No. I know the first intimation we have of its coming here is the Becher Bay Indians bringing it to market.

Q. You dont know that it is taken from Neah Bay, in that region?

A. Oh, yes; some fishermen here had salmon in their stalls which they tell me were caught near Cape Flattery.

Q. It has been said about spring salmon that they can be taken in salt water, practically at all seasons of the year, and that makes it undecided whether there is a regular run up through the Straits or whether they are playing around the Straits and the Gulf.

A. I think there is a regular run, but I think there are some stragglers that always keep around.

Wakeham:- Do the spring salmon school in the same way as the sockeye?

A. Not to the same extent. We have found them -- they seem to have been more plentiful this year. They have been caught plentifully you might say in Esquimalt Harbor and around here up to the present time. There were some in the market yesterday.

Q. How early do they begin to get them in the market here?

A. They have them off and on the whole time. They have them from November -- they commence to become more plentiful in November, December and January, whenever we get a fine day so that the Indians go out. They are all caught with the hook.

Q. There is no netting on the Canadian shore away from the Fraser River?

A. No; not for salmon. They do occasionally catch a few salmon in their herring seines; small nets, draw seines you know; they occasionally catch a few, but they don't fish exclusively for salmon. I suppose that it is not a legitimate way of taking salmon.

Q. Now, with the sockeye; how about their movements? You said something about their movements through the Straits?

A. I am not in a position to say which way they go in, whether from the south or west, but I believe that in large quantities they follow the south shore up to a certain distance up the Straits and strike off to the north when they get about mid-straits. I dare say they are scattered all through, but there are several places where you may say they strike more than others. One of those places I told you was between Neah Bay and Cape Flattery, and up towards Clallam Bay, and then we strike them in this bay between Sooke Harbor and Race Rocks; then they follow the shores here; I suppose they divide, some go one way and some another, but I think they follow the shores pretty well.

Q. And they occur plentifully in Becher Bay?

A. I dont know the place where we strike them most.

Q. You dont know how long it takes the schools from Cape Flattery to reach Becher Bay?

A. No; but it generally takes about 5 days from the head of Becher Bay to Point Roberts. There has never been sufficient

observations to be able to speak with authority on this.

Q. About the coho; do you know anything about its movements through the Straits?

A. Oh, it is about the same way as the sockeye.

Q. Do you know much about the passages at the north end of this island?

A. Oh, yes; I have been there a good deal.

Q. Do you think it is possible any of the salmon could come through those passes into the Gulf of Georgia?

A. I dont see why it could not, but I dont think it does for the reason that they are not found there. There is no evidence that they do come through there and also I believe they are a different school of fish, because the sockeye that runs in the large rivers, on the Skeena and the Fraser, is a much finer fish than those they catch on the north coast here, and that fish on the north coast goes up to every inlet; that is the north coast of Vancouver Island -- Johnsons Straits. And there is a remarkable thing about this sockeye salmon; it does not go in the Gulf of Georgia north of the Fraser, It is not caught in Howe Sound, only a

few miles distant. It seems to make its way up right there.

Q. Is Seymour Narrows south of Johnsons Straits?

A. Oh, yes; there is a passage extends about 13 miles from Johnsons Straits to Seymour Narrows.

Q. Where does the tide divide?

A. The tide divides about 15 miles this side of Seymour Narrows.

Q. South of Seymour Narrows?

A. Yes.

Q. You mean the tide comes up through the passages into Seymour Narrows?

A. Yes; and divides near Cape Mudge in the Gulf of Georgia. The ebb tide through Seymour Narrows flows to the north and the flood tide flows to the south. The meeting of the tides takes place on the east coast of Vancouver Island at a place called Oyster Bay.

Q. Has the water widened out where the tide meets there?

A. Oh, yes; it has widened out; it must be 15 miles wider. Of course it is dotted with

islands everywhere.

Q. There is a question whether the salmon would not be guided more or less in their movements by that tide element?

A. There is Salmon River; I wonder if Mr. Green spoke to you about Salmon River? I dont think the sockeye gets in there.

Q. That is where?

A. It empties into Johnson Straits, about 12 or 14 miles to the westward; it is on this side of Alert Bay.

Q. And the sockeye run in other rivers at the north?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. But in no rivers that empty into the Gulf of Georgia?

A. Not that I know of. It runs up into some of the rivers on the island here; in the Cowichan River they have some.

Q. Of course you would not get many in a small river like that?

A. No; but in some years they get a good many.

Q. How about Nanaimo River?

A. Oh; there are very few fish in it.

Q. Are they small?

A. Well, they get pretty good fish in the Nanaimo River, but it is more of a trout stream.

Q. Not, about the passage of the sockeyes ~~xxxx~~ up through the islands here, San Juan Islands, etc., do you know how many of those passes they go through?

A. I think they go through every one of them. You see the Indians -- wherever there is an Indian reservation along the shore, they troll for salmon and catch them. They catch them on Port Angeles side and on our side the same way, and it shows they distribute themselves all around.

Q. Can the sockeye be taken with bait?

A. In the salt water they can. They catch them in Becher Bay. It is my impression that the sockeye which Mr. Fanning showed us, he said was taken with a hook.

Q. All the fish taken in Becher Bay are taken with a troll are they not?

A. Mostly, yes.

Q. And they are sockeyes?

A. Yes; the very first run comes there.

I believe there is a settler there who has a

domestic license for himself, but they cannot catch them with the drift net there.

Q. Do you know of any places through the Straits where they could catch sockeyes in sufficient numbers for commercial purposes?

A. With what appliances?

Q. Any appliances.

A. I believe with these seines they could catch them; that is the purse seines. I dont know that it has been tried, but I believe they can catch them with them. I know our people are very anxious to try, if they could only get licenses; that is with purse seines in the Straits here, but they are not allowed. There has been several applications made for licenses.

Q. I did not hear very favorable accounts of the purse seine around Point Roberts.

A. We were supplied from Beechy Sound during the close season last winter. When Sir Charles Hibbert came here they gave him Beechy Sound salmon for dinner, and they didnt forget to tell him about it either.

Q. He did not object to eating it I suppose?

A. No; I think he rather enjoyed it.

Q. Do you know much about the salmon up the rivers?

A. No.

Q. In your Hudson's Bay work you were not at the upper rivers?

A. No; I was just selling here.

Q. You must have handled salt salmon in those days did you net?

A. Yes; but it was always a failure; never realized anything after we got it to London. It was too slow; and whether it was not put up properly or not, it would not stand the tropics.

Q. You had to take it through the tropics twice?

A. Yes; it was a long voyage, about 4 months.

Q. What are the seasons of the sockeye in the salt water here?

A. Oh; from July to September.

Q. And the coho?

A. They come in just after; in September -- the beginning of September.

Q. Does that continue through October in Salt water?

A. Yes, through October.

Q. Do you know of the occurrence, or the catching of any spent fish in the salt water after the spawning season is over?

A. We never see any. I will try next summer. Our light keeper at Active Pass tells me that in along the beaches there there is small salmon, about 3 or 4 inches long. I asked him to catch me some, but he did not do it last year.

Q. It seems to be rather a vexed question at what age the salmon goes out to the salt water. Is there any evidence at all bearing upon it? Mr. Green told us they come out that same fall, but on the Atlantic they dont come out until the spring after.

A. I dont know what kind of salmon this is, but I intend to get some to send to the Department so they can classify it and see what kind it was.

Q. When did this man say they came in Active Pass?

A. In the summer, about this time.

Q. How much reliance can be put upon Mr. Green's general statements with regard to the

fish? Do you think he has observed closely?
He evidently has observed a good deal.

A. I suppose he has, but I dont know that he has had the opportunities of studying the run of fishes. He may do it on the rivers, but he has not had very much opportunity on the salt water.

Q. He is an excellent talker.

A. Fish is his hobby, you know, and he knows them all by their Latin names.

Q. I suppose the sizes of the fish are the same in the salt water about here that have been recorded in the Fraser River?

A. I think so.

Q. The sockeye they say run from 6 to 8 lbs.

A. Yes; about that, 8 or 9 lbs. They are very uniform in size. You will see many thousands at the canneries being put up and there is very little difference in their size.

Q. Well, how about the coho?

A. They are much about the same, but they vary more and are a smaller fish.

Q. What would be an average size for them?

A. About 6 lbs.

Q. And the quinnat?

A. Well, they vary exceedingly. If you are here tomorrow I wish you would see the one they have in the cold storage.

Q. They occur up to what?

A. Well; they say this is a 60 pound fish they have there, and you get them from 30 lbs. up. Between 30 and 40 lbs. is a very good sized fish for them.

Q. Do you ever use the humpback salmon here in the fresh market?

A. No.

Q. Nor the dog salmon?

A. No.

Q. You do use the quinnat, sockeye, coho and steelhead.

A. Yes, sir. The steelhead is a trout.

Q. Do they take the steelhead much?

A. Oh, yes; in the season; they commence about November, and way up to March, they take it in the salt water. They chiefly catch it in the rivers, you know, and don't catch it much in the salt water. Up here on the island, when it gets foul, toward the end of the season, they catch them for bait for crabs.

Q. The food; you have not had an opportunity of observing the food of these salmon much?

A. No.

Q. Have you had any opportunity to observe the death of the fish in the upper waters?

A. No. I have seen them half a mile in the woods laying pretty thick after a very high flood.

Q. But you have no information as to the extent to which the sockeye die, for instance?

A. No.

Q. Do you know the opinion of the Indians about that matter of the sockeye?

A. No; I cannot say that I do.

Q. When are the fish taken in the salt water mainly for fresh markets?

A. What kind?

Q. Well, each kind What time are they taken in Becher Bay and the like for the fresh market?

A. Pretty nearly all the year round.

Q. No; the sockeye?

A. Oh; from June to September. You dont get them at any other time.

Q. And the coho?

A. Later on in November.

Q. They would be taken in the salt water during that time?

A. Yes.

Q. The regulation is?*

A. The 30th of October.

Q. The regulation prevents them fishing for sockeyes on the 25th of August with the net, but I don't think there is anything to prevent you taking them in the salt water at any season, is there?

A. No, I think not; but ~~you~~ have you a copy of the British Columbia regulations? They are very ambiguous. I will tell you a thing I got into trouble about last year. I heard a report that salmon were being caught in Quatsino Sound, and I questioned the captain of a little steamer here, and he said he was going to ~~Quatsino~~ Quatsino to get 500 barrels of salmon, and I said, how do they catch them? and he said, I guess they catch them with the net. So I instructed the Quadra to go up there and see the fish, and instead of being 500 barrels there was about 140 kits of cohos that these traders had traded

with the Indians for, and they had been caught with hook and line. I told the captain that I did not think I would detain him, and I wrote to the Department about it, and they simply told me to sell them, and when they were sold they went for nothing, and I did not attempt to sell them, and of course I got a good rap for allowing them to be given away. There is nothing in the regulations as far as I can see that applied to that. The first section reads you can catch the fish without a license.

Q. The general fisheries act, which is superior to all the others, states there is nothing to prevent you fishing with hook and line in the tide water.

A. So I was in a quandary I did not know, and I have no call to know -- these Indians come here at the foot of the slips and sell their fish that they have caught to the people at a few shillings apiece, and I should think these fish should be seized also, but it would be a hardship to prevent the people from buying the salmon any season when it is in good order because a poor Indian had caught it with hook and line, and could not dispose of it.

Wakeham:- You see the conditions are entirely different here from what they are on the Atlantic coast, and the regulations that are made for the Atlantic coast will not suit here at all.

Q. Here is another clause: No salmon shall be taken in any waters of British Columbia from the 15th day of September to the 25th day of September; nor from the 31st day of October to the last day of February following.

A. Yes; that is the close season. It does not say what fish, and the first clause says you cannot catch them with any appliances; no fish whatever of any kind can be caught without a license. Fishing by means of nets or any other apparatus whatever, for any kind of fish without a license from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is prohibited in any waters of the province of British Columbia. You know you cannot act on a section like that. You could not carry that law out strictly. ~~Yes~~ No, I think that in trolling, in salt water, fish should be caught whenever you can catch them; that is spoon trolling.

Q. What disposition is made of the salmon

brought to Victoria? Of course there is a fresh local trade. Do they ice it and freeze it here and send it away?

A. No; there is none shipped from here. They just keep it for consumption, and before the cold storage they salted it.

Q. The cold storage is for local use?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is the quantity brought in here during the whole season considerable?

A. No, only a small quantity. There is only a small demand for fish here; they are not a fish eating people here.

Q. Have you had any experience with offal or any information regarding the placing of offal in the water?

A. Well; not particularly but I have been running up and down the Fraser River in the British Fishing season, and to all outward appearances there was nothing detrimental in the offal being thrown in the water, and I believe that if the offal is thrown in the current, that it is disposed, and ground up, and some eaten by the fish, and the strong tide works it up. You occasionally see a few dead salmon

floating on the surface. Must do so in the river where there is so many fishing boats, but they are very few. Some of the fishermen said they do get it in their nets. Although I dont know of any pollution of the river from the offal, still I think it should be taken care of. I think you may say for decency's sake it should not be thrown in the river, but for any ill effects of offal in the water, I dont believe it does any. I think the water is so great, that it is all disposed without seriously affecting the quality of the water. It is not a water that a person would like to drink at any times, even without the offal. In places, of course, like at Ladner's, where it lies in sloughs in might be taken up, and in those places I dont think it is judicious to allow it. I dont think the offal should be thrown in. I think it brings a lot of scavenger fish and I dont think it should be thrown even in the waters of the Gulf, because it brings these dog fish and all sorts of scavenger fish that it is not good to have around. I think if seine fishing is a success and it can be carried on in the Straits here, I think it will be a very

difficult question to settle. Of course, this is the first time that anybody has attempted it here, and they are doing it now. We don't feel the effect of the offal in the Fraser as they do at the Skeena. In the Skeena there is a more rise and fall, and the tide goes out for a long time, and all the offal dumped in the water there makes a terrible stench.

Q. It seems to me that we have got to consider the condition of affairs at each place. In some of the Great Lakes -- perhaps all of them -- the fishermen themselves are opposed to any offal going in. They say it is specially harmful to the whitefish. Of course there you have practically no currents, and as long as the fishermen feel that way it is better to encourage them.

Wakeham:- Even on the Atlantic coast the fishermen are opposed to throwing offal on the feeding grounds of the fish. Yet on the Grand Banks where hundred and hundreds of vessels are fishing year in and year out they are throwing their offal in there all the time.

A. The cod is a very greedy fish.

Wakeham:- Yes. You frequently catch cod fish that are damaged by eating the offal; the spine bones stick in their throat, and you will find lean fish and open them you will find they have swallowed bones of other fish x that have stuck in their throat.

Q. How about the sturgeon?

A. Well; sturgeon is a fishery that is very little known here. It has been chiefly carried on by the Indians up to the last 2 years, and they caught them with hooks -- baited hooks.

Q. Whereabouts?

A. In the rivers. I dont think sturgeon have been caught, unless it is on the banks of the Fraser here, except in the rivers.

Q. You dont get it in salt water here generally?

A. No.

Q. They would not fish for it there?

A. They have not done so until this last 2 years, when they fished toward the sand heads at the mouth of the Fraser.

Q. But not out in the Gulf or down in the Straits?

A. No; I have not heard of them. And it is only about 2 years they have been using these naked hooks.

Q. Now the halibut -- now you are coming to something of more importance with regard to the fisheries.

A. Well; I think that the halibut fishing as an industry has not been sufficiently carried out to receive very much attention.

Q. Is there much halibut fishing carried on from here?

A. No; there has not been -- in the last 2 or 3 winters they have tried on the north end of the island -- Vancouver Island-- they have tried for 2 or 3 years, but it did not prove successful.

Q. Why?

A. I think they could not get enough.

Q. But they have been fishing inside the Queen Charlotte Islands?

A. Yes, sir, for 2 seasons.

Q. They made that profitable?

A. Yes; they can catch any quantity of fish.

Q. That has been engaged in by what?

A. Only 2 or 3 steamers and also by sailing schooners from the American side. They fish on the same banks.

Q. They are from where?

A. From across the Sound, at Seattle. They have 2 or 3 schooners there, and they have been also employed fishing on the north end of the island. The Indians have caught fish for them at Amity, at the northwest end of Vancouver.

Q. How about the north end of Queen Charlotte Islands?

A. I dont think the fishing has ever been tried there for commercial purposes.

Q. What do these 3 steamers do with their fish?

A. They ship them. They leave a small quantity here in cold storage, a few thousand pounds, and the rest is all shipped. That left in cold storage is for local use.

Q. Do you know whether any fish has been done on Flattery Bank lately?

A. I dont know that there has been lately. In about 1888 they were fishing on the Flattery

Banks, but I think of late years they have not.

Q. Do you know why?

A. I suppose they dont catch them in sufficient quantities, and they are more plentiful farther north.

Q. Do the Indians catch any quantity of halibut in the little banks about here; does it amount to anything?

A. Oh, yes; along the coast; all along here. In the Northern Pacific they catch them. Right here the Indians dont catch much halibut. They are mostly caught by the Greek fishermen.

Q. How; in the Gulf and among these islands in the Straits?

A. I think the bulk of the halibut that is brought here for the local market is caught in the American grounds, to the eastward of the line drawn on the charts.

Q. And would that be by Indians or white men?

A. White men.

Q. But, altogether, it is not a big fishery?

A. No. A good deal of the halibut that is caught comes from there. From the Washington banks.

Q. They dont ship halibut from here?

A. No.

Q. They take it to Vancouver or Seattle?

A. Yes, sir. But there is none of these fish from the local banks here that is shipped east.

Q. It is only large cargoes?

A. Only large cargoes. You see they dont go in for it extensively enough here to ship it. A boat may go out and come back with 20 or 30 fish.

Q. How do they fish for halibut here?

A. With set lines.

Q. And set lines north I suppose the same way?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. The Indians; do they use set lines too?

A. No; single lines.

Q. And I think we heard that the Indians in fishing for halibut prefer their own hooks.

A. Yes; they do prefer their own wooden hooks.

Q. I suppose it is too soon to ask the question of the decrease of halibut?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. You dont know of any regulations that should be enforced?

A. No. A large percentage of their fish are full of spawn. I dont know that there is any particular season, but you will generally find it that the halibut here in the market in October is generally pretty full of spawn. In the winter we dont catch halibut around here.

Q. When is the halibut fishing principally done around these little banks?

A. In about October and in November; not much after that.

Q. Do they fish any in the summer?

A. Well; there is a few caught, but it pays fishermen very much better to fish for salmon on the large rivers, and so the fishing is not carried on much here.

Q. Not, the true cod fish; do you know much about that here?

A. No, I dont, and I dont know where the banks are here. I believe in some of the inlets here they catch them in the winter months, inside in the inlets and shoal waters, but there is very little caught.

Q. Do the true cod reach any size here,

or are they mostly small fish?

A. Mostly small fish.

Q. Have you ever seen the large cod here?

A. No; not the real true cod. If you have time tomorrow, Captain Warren has had an extensive experience with the fisheries on this coast. There was some fish put up here about 25 years ago; a man named Capt. Spring who was afterwards interested in these sealing vessels; he had a lot of fish put up and it went bad on him, and he never tried it again. He could not find a market for them; whether they were not properly cured or not I dont know, but it was a failure anyway.

Q. How about the black cod?

A. Well, I dont think it is carried on to a very great extent now. There was a few Norwegian fishermen who started on the west coast of Queen Charlotte Island, and they put up quite a number of barrels, but it is such an expensive fish that it did not prove a success. They wanted \$20. a barrel for that fish, and of course the people didnt use it extensively.

Q. That was salted?

A. Yes. It has never been tried to ship it fresh.

Q. Did the fish salt well?

A. Yes, I think so. We had some of that fish; I got half a barrel, and it kept perfectly sound for over a year, and I think it had been caught for more than a year before I got it.

Q. Why did it cost them so much?

A. They caught them in 400 fathoms of water, you know, and it is pretty hard fishing. I believe that since then they have caught it in the inner water here, near Fitzhugh Sound, and also some in this neighborhood, but only in small quantities.

Q. There is no general hook and line fishing through the Straits of Fuca?

A. No.

Q. Why not?

A. Well, I dont know whether they cannot find the fish or whether they are too lazy to carr~~e~~ the fishery on.

Q. Do you know whether such a fishery has been tried through the Straits?

A. There is a fishery been tried in the Straits here. There was a party of cod

fishermen came here some years ago and for a couple of years they tried, but finally the thing fell to the ground and they did not keep it up.

Q. Did they find any difficulties in the way?

A. Well, the weather in the winter months; and also the scarcity of the supply. There was no market much.

Q. Not, the Albatross had an experience here 2 or 3 years ago. She attempted to define the fisheries that were taken through the Straits and find out what there was, and she began by making the corss lines or drifts with the set lines, and the currents were so strong that they lost most of their lines. They lost all the anchors on board and had to buy a new stock in Victoria. The bait would be swept from the hooks, and even the fish taken on them would sometimes be swept from the hooks.

A. Oh, it has never been tried here, but of course the tides are very strong.

Q. That was mainly toward the outer part of the Straits. But you think, if the black cod could be delivered here at a reasonable

price they could make a success of it?

A. I think they could; it is a remarkably fine fish.

Q. It is not too oily for preserving?

A. No, I dont think so. For salting I dont think it is too oily.

Q. It is not any more oily than the salmon?

A. Well, this salmon does not dry very well here.

Wakeham:- We would not attempt to ship pickled salmon to the west Indies for salt salmon, as it would not keep at all.

A. There is quite a market for it in Australia. There is a great difference in the preserving of the fish. Now we had this man Lumbard, a Norwegian, that started to fish, and he would handle the fish nicely and they would be nice and clean, and you could go to another place and it would get rusty because it was not handled properly.

Wakeham:- I dont think that salt salmon are sold to any extent south of New York; Boston is the principal market for it.

Q. Do you know the ling here?

A. We have a fish we call the ling.

Q. A member of the cod family?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that plentiful here?

A. I think it is plentiful enough, but it is not fished for.

Q. Now the herring?

A. Our herring here is a miserable little fish. It is a poor fish. It is in sufficient quantities, but it is not a favorite fish. Even the Indians dont think much of it.

Q. Is not the quality good?

A. No ; it is a very dry fish, and small.

Q. They have used it for oil at times have they not?

A. Yes, they started a herring oil factory, and they utilized the fish for guano, but it fell through and was not successful. That manufactory was established at Vancouver at Cold Harbor; the old wharf is standing yet.

Q. You dont think it would ever be taken up again?

A. No, I think not -- not for that purpose.

Q. Would it be used for any purpose?

A. Only for bait.

Q. If hook and line fishing were carried

on extensively it would be an important bait would it not?

A. Yes, I think it would.

Q. Do they fish for other things to any extent?

A. Oh, yes; principally for salmon, and all kinds.

Q. Clams?

A. Not much clams. They dont use them much. They use the eulichon, but then the eulichon is very soft.

Q. Do you have the capelin here?

A. I believe there is some, but I dont know.

Q. You know what the octopus is?

A. Yes.

Q. Do they ever use that for bait?

A. Well, it is difficult to catch. They use it when they can get it. There are plenty of them here.

Q. Do they get the skate here?

A. They dont try; there are some here I believe, but they dont fish for them.

Q. Now, the dog fish?

A. The dog fish are all over the country. We have 3 extensive oileries here for dog fish; one at Skitigat on Queen Charlotte Island, one at Clew, also on Queen Charlotte Islands, and one on Rorcher Island, off the entrance of Skeena River.

Q. Have they never done anything with it in the Gulf of Georgia?

A. They put up small quantities of oil there all along the islands; Mayne Island and other islands there where we were today. There are quite a lot of fishermen who put it up in small quantities. They are chiefly Italians.

Q. Do you know the price of the oil?

A. No.

Q. What do they use it for?

A. They use a good deal of it in the coal mines here, but as lubricators and also for burning in lamps.

Q. Are not they taking off too many dog fish?

A. I think not; I dont think you could destroy the brutes.

Q. Dont you think they might kill off other enemies of the other fish?

A. Possibly they might do that.

Q. Are there other enemies of the other fish?

A. Well, we dont know that.

Q. Are the dog fish decreasing?

A. I think not. In Skitigit, I have seen them fishing, and would set their lines and haul up halibut, and they threw them away. They wanted the dog fish.

Q. How do they catch the dog fish?

A. With set lines.

Q. How do they catch the herring?

A. With seines.

Q. What kind, shore seires?

A. Yes.

Q. Where do they do most of the fishing for herring?

A. A good deal in Portios Pass, Active Pass, Race Rocks, and all those places.

Indians catch a good deal of herring with their rakes. They have a long pole and about 6 feet of it they have nails stuck in, perhaps about an inch long and they go in the school and just scoop them in with those rakes.

Q. Do you know of the use of the eggs of

the herring?

A. They are only used among the Indians as food.

Q. How do they collect it?

A. Off the kelp I think.

Q. Do they ever put buoys in the water to collect it on?

A. Oh, yes; you will not see it so much here as farther up the coast, and there they have stakes where they have it to dry.

Q. The herring spawn right on the shore?

A. Yes.

Q. It would not be between tides would it where the shore is covered, between high and low water?

A. Oh, yes. I dont know exactly how they collect it, but they get it from the kelp just about low water.

Q. The rock cods are they much of a fish here?

A. They are a very nice fish, but they are not much caught. They are caught by these fishermen some with their nets.

Q. What kind of nets?

A. There is only one kind of net here, the drag seines.

Q. They are only sold locally I suppose?

A. Yes.

Q. And the smelt?

A. They are caught locally here, but not exported. They are caught with drag seines. Up at the end of this harbor here and at Esquimalt is a favorite place for them, and a little later than this they also catch the anchovies.

Q. And that is taken in the same way?

A. Yes.

Q. How large is the smelt?

A. It is generally about 6 inches long.

Q. And the anchovies are how long?

A. About 4 inches.

Q. Have they ever tried to preserve either of those fish?

A. No.

Q. Do you have a fish here called the sardine?

A. Yes, I believe they have.

Q. You dont know anything about it?

A. No. I have seen them, but they are not being caught in much numbers; sometimes you will see a few in the market.

Q. Nothing has ever been said about putting up a cannery for them?

A. No. The only thing they have tried to can outside of salmon has been clams, in the shape of fish. They tried venison up north, but it did not prove a success.

Q. And the eulichon?

A. They are caught north; salted, dried and smoked.

Q. And made into oil?

A. Yes; for the use of the Indians for food.

Q. Do they burn it at all?

A. Not much.

Wakeham:- What does it look like?

A. At this time of year it is a bright color, but in cooler weather it will be like white grease.

Q. Does not keep clear like porpoise oil?

A. Oh, no. It is a good tasting oil, and not fishy. I have taken it myself as medicine instead of cod liver oil. I took some from

Nanoos~~e~~ one year to send it to London and they refined it. It was sent as an experiment to some great chemist in England to be used medicinally.

Q. Did you ever see them use the eulichon as a candle?

A. No.

Q. Never saw it lighted?

A. No. I have often heard of it.

Q. What do you think about it?

A. I believe it would burn, but it will not give a good light. The Indians now dont use it; they use coal oil.

Q. Changing the subject, we were talking about the sturgeon. Now the Indians on the Fraser River they actually wanted to buy the sturgeon of the people that were catching it, as they were too lazy to catch it themselves. What do they use it for?

A. For food.

Q. They like it do they?

A. Oh, yes. To show you their character, last winter on the west coast of Vancouver here they made a good deal of money in sealing, and do you think they would go out fishing? No they

employed Norwegians to go out fishing for them, and chopping their wood at \$1.50 a day. One tribe took \$16,000 for their sealing season, and then they hired the white men to go out and catch their fish. Those Norwegians did a big thing out of the Indians, cutting their wood, etc. You could go down the west coast a few years ago and get salmon for 40 cents, and they gave these Norwegians \$1.50 for every salmon they caught.

Q. How was the weather this spring during the sealfishery?

A. It was very rough.

Q. Do they lay the small catch to the rough weather?

A. Yes. They could not put their boats out. The seals were not scarce.

Q. Did you hear about the Japan coast?

A. Yes; the catch was small there, and the season was rough there, also.

Q. Do they make much of crabs here?

A. Oh, yes. They have very fine crabs here.

Q. Are they sold much in the market?

A. Yes, they sell a good deal.

Q. They dont pretend to ship them away?

A. No. They are very good flavored crabs
There has been quite a trade between the other
side and here; between here and Dungeness.

Q. Why, are they particularly abundant
there?

A. I believe they are, yes, sir.

Q. You dont know how they catch them there?

A. No; I think they catch them in baskets
or traps of some sort. They are nice, good
sized crabs.

Q. How many kinds do you use here?

A. Only one.

Q. You know that peculiar horny crab, the
king crab?

A. Yes; it is very scarce here.

Q. You never eat them?

A. Well, we see very few of them. We
have a king crab in Jersey which are very nice.
We never have the spider crab there.

Q. Those could be canned?

A. I suppose our crabs here could be
canned; they are full of meat. We catch them
here in the lagoons, and in the Sooke they are

very plentiful. We used to catch them in the harbor here, but since the town has increased its size we have not. We have some very fine prawns here, I suppose you have seen some of them.

Q. Yes.

A. They are so dear -- 35 and 40 cents a pound.

Q. They are abundant are they not?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Why should they cost so much?

A. That is a question.

Q. How do they catch them?

A. With scoop nets.

Q. How wide will it be?

A. 4 or 6 feet in diameter, and then they sweep it. Of course it is no profession and they dont catch many in a day.

Q. Still, there must be places where they could?

A. I think a man any place around this harbor could catch 40 or 50 lbs. a day.

Q. And clams?

A. The clams are nearly on every beach.

Q. How many kinds do you consider there

are here?

A. Oh, I dont know. There is I suppose several kinds. There is some places where you will get quite small clams, and in other places again you will get immense ones.

Q. Do you know the little-necked clam, so-called?

A. No.

Q. You find it about here, and it is very seldom they are called little-necked clams, so I dont know what you call it here.

A. We have some clams here that are small, about 1 1/2 inches or 2 inches in diameter, and they are really nicer than these large clams.

Q. You began to say something about canning clams?

A. Yes; they canned them at Alert Bay once.

Q. Do you know whether they kept that up?

A. No.

Q. The question with us was -- they canned them when they could not get salmon?

A. Yes, I believe that was the reason. They had a lot of cans empty and they put clams in them, and they are very good, too.

Q. Are they sold much in the local market

here?

A. Oh, yes; a good deal.

Q. Is there any sort of market here where you will see many fish or clams, by going down?

A. No; it is very seldom you see any clams in the market; the Indians simply peddle them around.

Q. How about crabs?

A. They dont peddle crabs very much.

Q. Are there many fish dealer's shops here?

A. About half a dozen.

Q. So we could get at them readily?

A. Oh, yes; they are right close here.

Q. Now, what whales have you here, porpoises and the like? Do they do anything with any of them here?

A. No, not now. Some 20 or 30 years ago there was a company formed called the Househong Whaling Company, which operated here for a few years, but it had to wind up.

Q. And the porpoises, they dont attempt to take the oil from them?

A. No.

Q. Are there any grampus about here?

A. No, I think not. There are several kinds of seal. There is the hair seal, and sea lions that will weigh half a ton. You will get them on the north end of the island here in large numbers.

Q. Do they do anything with them?

A. No.

Q. Do they do anything with the hair seal here?

A. No.

Q. They dont use their skins?

A. No, they have not attempted to catch them.

Q. Do you have the walrus on this coast?

A. No.

Q. Has the sea otter ever occurred in this region?

A. It used to be very plentiful here.

Q. How far south?

A. We used to get them down here in 40° on the coast of California, but there is none there now, but they were there in the early days.

Q. And about here?

A. Oh, yes; they were very plentiful here.

Q. We saw where the Danube brought down
3 or 4 skins valued at \$1,200.

A. I suppose so.

Q. Do you do much with flounders here?

A. No; nobody eats them; they are a muddy
fish and flavorless.

Q. Are they sold at all in the markets?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. How would they be caught?

A. They are taken in these little seines.

Q. That is the trouble probably, they get
them too near the shore.

A. Oh, yes; that fishery -- you know I was
telling you about that place near Sidney
Island; they might get some good fish there.

Q. Are the halibut you get in among the
islands as good fish as you get from the north?

A. No; they are softer. That fish up
north, you get some large solid flakes of flesh;
a splendid fish.

Q. The halibut you would get about here
in the markets now would be fish caught about
here?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then, about sea fisheries here; do you know of any protection that could be afforded them now, or do you think they had better be let alone?

A. I think, myself, that when the habits of the halibut is better understood it would be desirable to protect them.

Q. On the Atlantic coast halibut have been caught out in vast areas where they were once abundant.

A. I think the same thing would occur here. Of course they are in large numbers now and you can get them everywhere where you can strike bottom, and there is a large extent of fishery here too. On the coast of Alaska they are everywhere. It does not matter where you go, you will catch them.

Q. Of course there are tremendous quantities of cod up there that could be taken?

A. Of course here the table fish are the salmon and halibut. You very seldom see a fresh cod here on the table.

Q. Do you get the dry salt cod here much?

A. We dont dry it here.

Q. No; but I mean from the east coast?

A. There is a good deal of it used. I would rather use the fish here. I think, we have so much fish here, and that it is a shame that we have to get it from the east, but they do get it from the east all the same.

Q. With the fur seals, how long do they keep the skins here?

A. They ship them right off. They strip the skins off the seals and leave about 1/4 inch of fat on. They dont skin them close to the skin. They salt better; and you lay them down in salt and leave them that way for about a week and then take the salt off and see that there are no bad spots about them, and then they will stay like that until they arrive here, and then they take that salt off and resalt them and put them in barrels, and then they are shipped right to London.

Q. Are they sold here at all in small quantities?

A. Oh, some are sold here, but most of our men who can afford it ship them. There are none sold here for use. They are all shipped;

every one of them.

Q. It is strange that the preparation of the fur seal has been confined to England?

A. Yes, sir.

Wakeham:- And confined there to certain families.

A. Dont they preserve them in the States at all?

Q. No; you see the trouble is that it is all in the hands of a few anyway.

A. I have noticed the fur sales in London and they are mostly all foreigners who attend those sales.

Wakeham:- I think the people whom they are dyed by are foreigners.

A. I had some done once. I got the address from the Hudson's Bay Company and had them prepared for me in England.

Q. To what extent are they caught along the Vancouver Island coast?

A. Oh, they are caught extensively. They commence about Christmas to take a run up north. They go down to meet them about off the Columbia River the early part of January, and they were very plentiful this year after

the first of May, which is the close season.

Q. That would be on the coast of Alaska?

A. On the coast of Vancouver here the Indians were catching them off shore after the first of May.

Q. What were they doing?

A. Feeding I suppose, on their way up north. They were later this year than usual. All our schooners were in here by the 8th or 10th of May this year. The boats will leave you at daylight and go out and you will not see them again until night, and it is astonishing they dont lose some of them.

Q. What is the opinion here of the use of the spear in Bering Sea?

A. They rather like it, because the use of the spear does not frighten the seals so much.

Q. That is where British Columbia vessels get ahead of the Americans, they have got the experienced Indian spearmen.

A. I dont see why the Indians down around Neah Bay should not spear as well as our Indians. I dont see why our white men cannot spear as well as the Indians. I think it is

more the boats they use, because I think a white man has as much muscle to throw a spear as the Indians, and they certainly beat the Indians in shooting every time. The young of the Indians have gotten quite out of the use of the spear in the last few years, since the use of guns.

Q. I know last summer one of our men was on board an American sealing vessel, Mr. Alexander. He wanted to go with Capt. Miner -- you know Miner?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. He did not go to Bering Sea last summer, and he is always supposed to do well.

A. He always did.

Q. So Alexander had to ship on an inferior vessel, and he gives an account of the daily work, and they did very poorly in proportion to the number of seals seen. This year Alexander is going on a sealing vessel, and it is questionable whether he could make the proper arrangements with an American vessel, and it is not at all unlikely he has gone with a Canadian vessel. How do those sealing vessels run in tonnage?

A. We have only one that is over 100 tons and that is the one Jacobs brought here -- the Mollie Adams.

Q. What is the tonnage mostly?

A. About 60 tons is considered about the handiest size.

Q. Are there many that size, or are they mostly small?

A. Oh, mostly larger; from 60 to 80 tons.

Q. How did the Agnes McDonald turn out here?

A. She did well.

Q. Where do most of the sealing schooners come from?

A. Most of them are Nova Scotia vessels.

Q. Some from the United States?

A. We have very few from the United States. We have but one, the Walter Rich.

Q. And the Mollie Adams?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did the Walter Rich come out?

A. She has been here about 4 years.

Q. Was not she a mackerel vessel?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the Mermaid like?

A. She is a smart little thing. She is like a yacht. She is an English revenue cutter. He had an adventure with a whale, I believe last year, and knocked his bow one side with a slap of the whale's tail. I had quite a curious circumstance; one of the light keepers had a son who had gone to the coast of Japan and he was lost, and I was ordered to hold an investigation when the schooner came home and inquire into the matter. A whale had struck the boat and had cut it into almost, and only 2 men out of the 3 were saved. The other 2 were picked up, and this man thought his son did not have fair play. I scarcely believed it, but the thing happened a second time on the same schooner -- another boat struck, and several of the men came and gave the evidence. It almost cut the boat in two; the keel was cut right off.

Q. That is by the thrasher is it not?

A. Yes, sir. They have a tremendous large dorsal fin. I have seen them in the Bering Sea, but up there all the seals seem to get away from them.

Q. Do they kill many seals?

A. I dont know; I never saw them attack

any.

Q. What do they feed on, do you know?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever meet Capt. Herendin?

A. No.

Q. With regard to the salmon regulations; what is your opinion about the regulations as they stand, or the regulations as you think they should be?

A. I think that there has been no very great kick against the regulations as they are. Of course, they might be made more distinct; like that first clause, it is pretty hard to interpret, and you can scarcely ever act on it as it stands; and I think that fishing in the salt water should be allowed all the year round; that is with the hook and line; and it should be specially mentioned in the regulations.

Wakeham:- The regulations could be made to govern net fishing and fishing above the tide.

Q. Yes; and also, as Mr. Rathbun has said, it is almost impossible with any fairness to make one rule applicable to all streams, because the streams differ, one from the other. For

instance, in the Skeena River the sockeye will run 3 weeks earlier than in the Fraser River, so giving the Skeena River the first of July to fish for sockeye with a 5 3/4 mesh would be an injury, because the best of the run of their fish would be over by that time.

Q. They run pretty regularly in the Skeena 3 weeks ahead?

A. Yes, the sockeye; but the law before that made it a rule not to commence before the 15th of July. That was so as to deal fairly with the canneries so they could all start at the same time.

Q. What is your opinion as to trap net fishing and seine fishing -- pound net fishing and seine fishing?

A. Well, I think we are situated so that if our neighbors use them we should use them also. It is very annoying to our people that they should not be allowed the same privileges as their neighbors across the water. If they are allowed on the American side I think they should be allowed here.

Q. In the salt water?

A. In the salt water. Certainly the Americans could not object to that.

Wakeham:- Are there places on the shore where you could fish pound nets to advantage?

A. Oh, I think so. I think we could deal with them as well as what we are using. I think there are several places here in Becher Bay and down to the entrance of the Jordan River where you could use trap nets to advantage.

Wakeham:- How would it be off the mouth of the Fraser?

A. I dont know how it would do there.

Q. In the river I think their use would be doubtful.

A. Yes, I think they are quite satisfied with their nets.

Wakeham:- We have always considered in connection with that fishery, one main reason of the Department in refusing to sanction the use of those nets is that they are so apt to get in the hands of a few, and the object has been to distribute the fishery among as many as possible.

A. Yes, it would be, for it requires some

capital to start these traps. It certainly deprives the poor man from participating in it. But it is the general impression here that the salmon fishery of the Fraser River would be revolutionized; that the fishing would be done in salt water and a very few fish would get up.

Q. If they dont get up there would be no spawning.

A. Oh, there is bound to be some get up, because they cannot catch them all here.

Q. Well, the fishery will not be confined here.

A. Yes, that is so; those that escape the traps here would get caught in the nets also. I suppose McNab has well on to 2,000 licenses. There is a tremendous number of boats there in the season. It is not a healthy industry because it only lasts about 2 months, and out of that the people here are fed, and it comes at a season that the farmers cannot utilize this extra labor that is brought in, for by the time the fish season is over the busy season of the farmers is over too.

Q. They say a great many people who have not been able to find other work have gone into

fishing, and a great many of them are inexperienced.

A. Undoubtedly; you know this labor question; there is a great objection to a working man, to go to work in the country. They would rather loaf about the sidewalks of the city. But I question whether that seine fishing business in the open waters of the Straits can be successful here for salmon.

Q. That is purse seines?

A. Yes, sir. They are very anxious to try it.

Q. Do you know whether the Americans have tried it or not?

A. They were the ones that had the boat out to-day. They have not tried it so far, but they are going to try it this season.

Q. In the Straits?

A. Yes; right down to Cape Flattery. They will supply this cannery at Port Angeles. This man came to me yesterday and wanted to know how near our shore he could fish. I told him I was not positive, but would submit it to the Department and let him know, but said, in the meantime, he must not come within 3 miles.

Q. There is nothing on our charts; it must be a special treaty if there is anything about it, and there is nothing in the general statutes relating to it. You have no high seas.

A. Their idea in fishing them is to go out to the Cape and follow the fish up.

Q. How old is Judge Swan now?

A. He must be between 60 and 70. There is one thing, you are certainly in a position, by coming here to see it to understand what we wanted to tell you better than if you had not come. I have written a good many reports to the Department since I have been here. But for the habits of the fish, I think a man should be here -- there should be a certain sum allowed for him to follow this thing for a series of years. Here the fishing is in its infancy.

Q. We have quite a number of Fish Commission men who have kept up these studies for a long while. Now, this last few years we have been working on the Columbia River, and last year we had as many as 8 men there, and this year we have 5 or 6 on the headwaters of the

Columbia studying the quinnat, and the steelhead and probably the blue back, which is possibly the sockeye. They are studying their habits in the upper waters -- their breeding habits.

Wakeham:- Is there the same condition there -- that they all die?

A. Up to the last year or two here it has been the general impression that they all die. There is no proof of their coming back, as far as I can understand. They have a theory here that of course the salmon goes back stern first and he will not gill, of course, by the tail.

Wakeham:- You never see a salmon up stream coming down head first, of course, as he would smother, but I dont think they go that way after they get down farther.

A. McNab is for destroying all the young trout; he says they eat his fry.

Wakeham:- I have been fighting with the Department for years to destroy the trout in the salmon rivers. I have caught the trout and opened them and found them full of young salmon. They hang around the spawning grounds ready to gobble up the eggs, and they are there again ready to gobble up the young fish. You will

see them around every cod fishing establishment on the Atlantic coast, and here too swallowing the offal. I would not destroy the trout in the trout streams, but in the salmon streams. You see they have passed regulations stopping us fishing in these rivers for trout, and if they would let us catch the trout it would keep up the balance better, but the trout are protected and they are increasing and the salmon are decreasing.

, A. I dont know if we are decided yet, Mr. McNab has too much to do to follow 'the thing up, whether it is properly decided yet where the spring salmon spawn.

Q. They go to the extreme headwaters.

A. Yes; I know some creeks here the different salmon will not frequent the same streams for spawning.

Q. He says in some streams there they are separate and in others they are mixed.

A. Yes, in some streams they will go together.

In 1864 or 1865 the firm of Dixon, Campbell & Co., imported a man from -----? to put up some cod. They erected stakes on Village

Island, the entrance to Barclay Sound and were supplied with cod fish from the entrance of the Sound. This fish was pronounced by Dr. Brown who was here at the time as a specialist of some kind, as the true eastern cod. Dr. Brown is now living in Edinburg, Scotland. This fish was shipped to the Sandwich Islands. There was then a trade between the Sandwich Islands and here -- quite a number of vessels. They were cured on stakes. I know that Captain Spring put up some fish which Mr. Johnson told me came from the same locality here, in 1867 or 1868.

Q. Those fish were all sent away?

A. No, the spring fish were brought into this market for their own use.

Q. Is that the only preparation you know of?

A. That is the only curing of real cod here that I know of in British Columbia.

Q. Did you say Mr. Trotter Johnson was the agent for that?

A. He was the agent.

Q. Did he say anything about the difficulty of preparing them, was there any difficulty

A. No, I think not. Of course you have a splendid time to cure fish in the summer. It is like this most of the time.