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## PAPERS

Respecting the Strike among Fishermen on the Fraser River.

D. M. EBERTS,  
*Attorney-General.*

*Attorney-General's Office,  
17th August, 1900.*

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VANCOUVER, July 10th.

*Attorney-General, Victoria.*

Strike amongst fishermen on Fraser River; riots and damage to property likely to result unless immediate and ample police protection afforded to men desirous of pursuing their lawful calling; armed strikers parading Steveston.

W. A. DUNCAN,  
*Sec'y Fraser River Cannery Association.*

VICTORIA, July 11th, 1900.

*W. A. Duncan, Vancouver.*

Chief Constable Lister going to Steveston to preserve order.

H. A. MACLEAN.

VANCOUVER, July 10th, 1900.

*H. A. Maclean, Victoria.*

Leaving for Steveston to investigate trouble amongst fishermen; will wire report on return; send number of badges for special constables, if possible.

R. B. LISTER.

VICTORIA, July 11th, 1900.

*R. B. Lister, Steveston.*

Badges via Vancouver to-night; keep in telephone communication with R. A. Anderson, Stipendiary Magistrate, Vancouver, in case he should be required to read Riot Act, section 83 of Code.

H. A. MACLEAN.

July 11th, 1900.

*R. B. Lister, Steveston.*

Report fully by wire immediately present condition of affairs at Steveston; use wire freely; report expected from you last night.

D. M. EBERTS.

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July 11th, 1900.*Colin S. Campbell, Vancouver, B.C.*Badges sent by mail addressed to Lister at Steveston *via* Vancouver.H. A. MACLEAN.  

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11th July, 1900.

*R. B. Lister, Steveston.*

Why do you not report on situation at Steveston, as requested by my telegram? Most anxious to have full report immediately.

D. M. EBERTS.  

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VANCOUVER, B.C., July 11th.

*D. M. Eberts, Attorney-General, Victoria.*

Have arranged with Lister; have case here, and expect to make arrest to-night.

COLIN S. CAMPBELL.  

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STEVESTON, B.C., July 11th, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

All quiet here at present; reported meeting of fishermen to be held Saturday, addressed by labour leaders; letter by to-day's mail; returned late last night.

R. B. LISTER  

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VANCOUVER, July 11th.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Captain Anderson just arrested for intimidating yesterday.

COLIN S. CAMPBELL.  

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NEW WESTMINSTER, July 11th, 1900.

*H. A. Maclean, Esq.,**Deputy Attorney-General, Victoria, B. C.*

SIR,—I beg to submit the following report concerning the strike at Steveston:—

It appears that the Cannery Association has offered to pay the fishermen at the rate of twenty cents per fish for the whole season. The majority were satisfied to go to work for that price.

A few days ago two labour agitators, by the name of McClain and Anderson, of Vancouver, went out to Steveston and induced a number of men to hold out for twenty-five cents. While at Steveston yesterday, a report came in that six men had attacked two Japanese, and threw about a hundred fish into the water; also a report from the North Arm of the Fraser River, that the Japanese had been driven off the fishing grounds at the point of revolvers. I have made arrangements with the Cannery Association to provide four small steamboats to patrol the fishing grounds, and place three or four constables on each. I think an immediate exhibition of authority will have the effect of preventing any serious lawlessness occurring.

Will report further to-morrow.

I have, etc.,

(Signed)

RICHARD B. LISTER,  
*Chief Constable.*  

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VANCOUVER, July 12th, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Received your first message four afternoon yesterday at Steveston ; answered at once ; meeting last night ; all quiet ; cannery are providing six boats to patrol ; specials aboard ; fishermen going out this afternoon ; report by letter to-morrow.

R. B. LISTER.

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VICTORIA, B. C., July 12th, 1900.

*Hon. D. M. Eberts,  
Attorney-General of British Columbia.*

DEAR SIR,—Please note the following copy of wire received last night from Dr. Bell-Irving:—

“Your telegram received ; Campbell has great difficulty in getting good men as specials ; things quiet on river, but our manager reports that there will be trouble should Japanese attempt to fish ; warrant has been issued against Captain Anderson for intimidation ; no boats fishing ; Lister is at Steveston ; reports obtained some specials from Westminster ; the Cannery Association has not recognised the Union in any way.”

Also copy of telegram received at 11 p.m. from our manager at Richmond Cannery, North Arm, Fraser River:—

“Union meeting near Eburne this evening ; one of our fishermen there said, on account of Japanese Consul writing Japs to go out, Union considered day lost ; members propose burning canneries ; send several men to each, Richmond in particular, on account of Japs fishing there ; have placed extra watchman and guard around cannery to-night.

“Goss, *Manager.*”

We are not easily frightened, but at the same time it is not pleasant to have such threats made, and we believe some of these Union men are quite prepared to go to any extreme.

Letters from our canneries last night report the situation as serious ; men wishing to fish are intimidated, and on Tuesday fish were taken by force out of some of our boats off the mouth of the river and thrown away.

We are, etc.,  
(Signed) J. H. TODD & SONS.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., July 13th, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria :*

Ten boats went out and returned ; no trouble ; rumours of trouble to-night ; Sunday night may bring strike to a crisis ; am prepared for any trouble ; twenty specials.

R. B. LISTER, *Steveston.*

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STEVESTON, 13th July.

*D. M. Eberts.*

All quiet ; steamers towing boats to mouth of river, mostly Japanese ; special on each steamer ; Murray and self going out ; report on return.

R. B. LISTER.

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STEVESTON, July 13th, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

I have arrested Frank Rogers, secretary Fishermen's Union, on charge of intimidation ; two men in boats captured identify him.

R. B. LISTER.



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VANCOUVER, July 14th, 1900.

*Hon. D. M. Eberts, Attorney-General,  
Victoria.*

SIR,—I beg to report two cases, *Regina v. Captain J. L. Anderson* and *Regina v. C. Williams, re fishermen's strike*.

The case of *Regina v. Anderson* was one of intimidation, and there seemed to be sufficient evidence to make a good case, but after he had been arrested there was very little evidence. Anderson is looked upon as one of the leaders; he was tried in the City Police Court here and dismissed. The principal witnesses, according to the foreman of the cannery, would have nothing to say after he was arrested.

The case of *Regina v. Williams* is of a different nature. Three Jap boats had been out fishing, and on returning home on Tuesday, the 10th inst., a.m., to the Terra Nova Cannery they were met by three boats, two with nine men each, and the other with seven men. The accused, Williams, was in the last-mentioned boat, and was one of the two men who entered two of the Jap boats and threw overboard all their fish, and helped to hold third boat while some others threw the fish overboard. Special Constable Jefferson brought in Williams and the three Japs, who held licences, on Thursday night. After examining the Japs I laid three informations against Williams, that he did at Richmond, unlawfully in pursuance of an unlawful combination respecting the trade of a fisherman, use violence in destroying fish belonging to each of three Japs, with a view to hindering the said Japs from working or being employed at the trade or business of a fisherman, and a warrant issued by R. A. Anderson, S. M. On Friday the case was remanded by R. A. Anderson till 10 a.m. Saturday, R. A. Anderson, S. M., and J. C. Johnson, J. P., on the bench. One case was proceeded with, but on the witness stating that it was about five miles from land that the offence was committed, the Magistrates decided that they had no jurisdiction to try the case. The prisoner was remanded till Wednesday, the 18th inst, 11 a.m. McDonell appeared for the defence, being the attorney for the Union, and becoming personally responsible for the appearance of the accused he was released. Constable Jefferson says that the three Japs picked out Williams as one of the men from among a number of other fishermen.

On Friday night, coming from Steveston, I examined the three boat pullers, and found that their evidence was the same as the owners of licences; I gave instructions to bring them into Vancouver at once. Mr. H. J. Duncan was engaged to prosecute on case of *Regina v. Anderson*; I had him draw up informations *Regina v. Williams*; he also conducted the case for the prosecution; I was not present at the trial of *Regina v. Anderson*, as I was at Steveston.

The fishermen advertise a big parade and meeting to-night at Court House, Indian band to lead procession.

I might say that the other Japs state that it was not five miles from land where offence was committed; even his boat puller says it was within the three miles limit. I think that the other two charges can be well substantiated, unless they give different evidence to the statement already made.

I have &c.,  
(Signed) COLIN S. CAMPBELL,  
Provincial Constable.

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STEVESTON, July 14th, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

All quiet last night; fishermen parade in Vancouver to-day; both parties determined to hold out.

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R. B. LISTER.

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STEVESTON, July 16th, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

All quiet; no change in the situation. Both parties holding out.

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R. B. LISTER.



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STEVESTON, July 17th, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Everything quiet ; no settlement yet ; do not expect trouble ; special patrolling night and day has good effect ; think not necessary for me to remain ; wire reply.

F. R. MURRAY.

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17th July, 1900.

*Constable F. R. Murray, Steveston.*

Please return to Victoria to-day's "Islander."

H. A. MACLEAN.

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NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., July 19th, 1900.

*Hon. James Dunsmuir, Victoria.*

Board of Trade requests me to urge upon your Government the necessity of taking steps immediately to adjust disagreement between cannerymen and fishermen, so as to prevent loss of this season's catch, which would seriously affect trade in this district.

D. ROBSON,

*Government Agent.*

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VANCOUVER, July 20th.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Numerous reports of intimidation by fishermen's patrols ; no boats out in main river at Steveston ; number out North Arm and New Westminster ; think "Quadra" in Gulf and river would have effect ; letter to-morrow's mail.

R. B. LISTER.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., July 20th, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Two boats fishing opposite Steveston this evening ; strikers took possession of boats by force, and drove away specials on tugs ; one special severely handled ; boat and net now in hands of strikers ; police unable to cope with situation ; position very serious ; numerous other outrages at different points on the river ; fish in a number of boats thrown into river by strikers ; unless prompt and adequate measures taken, life and property in great danger ; Pinkerton's agent considers situation most serious ; consider specials useless.

D. BELL-IRVING.

W. FARRELL.

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VICTORIA, 20th July, 1900.

*D. Robson, Esq.,*

*Government Agent, New Westminster.*

No representation in the line you mentioned has come to the Government from either of the parties interested.

JAMES DUNSMUIR.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., July 21st.

*Hon. James Dunsmuir,*  
*Premier, Victoria.*

It having been represented to this Board that a state of lawlessness at present exists on the Fraser River, and that British subjects desiring to carry on their lawful occupation as fishermen are intimidated and prevented by force from doing so; therefore, be it Resolved, That this Board request the Provincial Government to take immediate steps for the full protection of life and property, present measures being entirely inadequate to deal with the situation.

FREDERICK BUSCOMBE,  
*President Vancouver Board of Trade.*

4:10 p. m.—*Resolution No. 1.*

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VANCOUVER, B. C., 21st July, 1900.

*Hon. James Dunsmuir,*  
*Premier, Victoria.*

Resolution No. 2.—Resolved, that this Board view with great concern and regret the unfortunate misunderstanding at present existing between the fishermen and cannerymen on the Fraser River, and endorses the resolution of the Westminster Board of Trade requesting the Provincial Government to take immediate action with a view to the amicable adjustment of the disagreement between the cannerymen and fishermen.

FREDERICK BUSCOMBE,  
*President Vancouver Board of Trade.*

4:15 p. m.

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VANCOUVER, B. C., July 21st, 1900.

*Hon. James Dunsmuir, Victoria, B.C.*

In connection with the strike, men without uniform, unarmed and inexperienced, utterly useless; we are informed by our detective these men stood by last night and saw riot and unlawful acts by strikers without attempting to offer aid, though called upon by parties attacked, although steamboats with constables on board stood by; Lister is quite unable to cope with situation as exists at Steveston; strikers treat him and his force with absolute contempt: militia urgently required, or great loss of life and property will result; many men desirous and intending to fish; when they start, serious riots will begin.

THE FRASER RIVER CANNERS' ASSOCIATION.

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VICTORIA, 21st July, 1900.

*Fraser River Cannerymen's Association, Vancouver.*

The Premier out of town; telegram laid before the Executive and steps taken.

R. E. GOSNELL,  
*Private Secretary.*

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VANCOUVER, B. C., July 21st, 1900.

*Hon. James Dunsmuir, Victoria, B. C.*

Would request you to send "Quadra" at once with armed and uniformed men to patrol at Steveston. Strongly recommend Campbell to put in charge of whole affair.

THE FRASER RIVER CANNERS' ASSOCIATION.

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VANCOUVER, July 21st, 1900.*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Some trouble on river last night; letter to-day explaining situation.

R. B. LISTER.

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VANCOUVER, July 21st, 1900.*The Honourable the Attorney-General,  
Victoria, B. C.*SIR,—I beg to submit the following report *re* the situation at Steveston:—

Until last evening there has been no sign of disturbance on the streets in this town. The cause of the trouble was as follows:—The manager of the Phoenix Canning Company sent out two boats to fish, evidently to test the attitude of the strikers. Three steam tugs were also sent out to protect the boats, with three special constables on each. Presently there appeared on the scene eight or ten boats, each containing from six to ten men of the Union, no doubt all of the lowest grade of society. They succeeded in capturing one of the boats, net and men, while the specials were saving the other boat. The captured boat, men and net were landed at the public wharf, where the men were roughly handled before I could reach there with the other specials. There are in the neighbourhood of four thousand licences issued on the Fraser River, about forty per cent. of which are Japanese; the balance are about equally divided amongst Indians and whites. I am informed that it is the intention of the Japanese, Indians and a few whites to go out fishing on Sunday at 6 p. m. If they should, it is almost certain that a large element of the Union will go out to intimidate and prevent others fishing. As most of the fishing is done outside the mouth of the river, over an area of possibly twenty square miles of water, it is impossible to cope with a mob of four or five hundred with a few constables.

There are several cases of intimidation and threats reported, but in all cases the offenders cannot be identified, as they are chiefly from the American side of the line. I would, therefore, suggest that some stringent measures be adopted in order to prevent the lawlessness that will no doubt occur should a large number of boats go out. I have arranged with R. A. Anderson, S. M., to be at Steveston to-morrow, in the event of it being necessary to read the Riot Act.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) RICHARD B. LISTER,  
Chief Constable.

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21st July, 1900.*R. B. Lister, Chief Constable, Vancouver.*

Canners report you are not affording protection to fishermen willing to work. Why are you in Vancouver? Report fully how outrage last night occurred, and what precautions were taken to prevent it; wire immediately full report.

D. M. EBERTS.

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STEVESTON, July 21st, 1900.*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Protection has been supplied when requested, which is only twice, once last week and once last night; went to Vancouver this morning with warrant for labour leader; two boats went out from Phoenix Cannery; also three steamers, three constables on each; six boats, with eight to ten men on each, led by Rogers, for whom warrant issued; tried to take both boats; constable reported captain would not do as requested; one boat secured.

R. B. LISTER.

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VANCOUVER, July 22nd, 1900.

*Hon. D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

In consequence of further agreement we believe a large number of fishermen will go fishing Monday night or Tuesday morning. Unless reliable body of police on spot have reason to think there will be trouble. Can you send some good men from Victoria to-night to meet Webster to-morrow at Vancouver, or Militia? Important Webster should be at Steveston to-morrow; please advise by wire.

THE FRASER RIVER CANNERS' ASSOCIATION.

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22nd July, 1900.

*Fraser River Cannery Association,  
Vancouver, B. C.*

Webster will reach Vancouver to-morrow, and will proceed immediately to Steveston; giving him full instructions to do everything necessary to protect fishermen willing to work.

D. M. EBERTS.

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STEVESTON, July 22nd, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Several hundred Japanese fishermen preparing to go out fishing in the morning; numerous reports that strikers are going out in force to prevent them; Japanese say they will fight if molested; investigated specials' report, *re* captains; captain of tug Lottie sympathises with strikers; report early to-morrow.

R. B. LISTER.

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July 23rd, 1900.

*Frederick Buscombe,  
President, Vancouver Board of Trade, Vancouver.*

Neither interested party have approached Government toward arbitration. We are ready and willing at any moment to do all in our power to reach amicable settlement.

JAMES DUNSMUIR,  
*Premier.*

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23rd July, 1900.

*F. R. Murray, Vancouver.*

Did I not instruct you to report to and assist Lister if Webster did not come?

D. M. EBERTS.

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23rd July, 1900.

*W. H. Bullock-Webster, Nelson.*

Attorney-General surprised you did not leave Nelson on receipt of his telegram; when you reach Vancouver, proceed immediately to Steveston.

H. A. MACLEAN.

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STEVESTON, July 23rd, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Boats did not go out this morning; expect to go out to-morrow; cannery's offer of twenty cents, limit two hundred, and fifteen cents over two hundred, refused by Union; all quiet.

R. B. LISTER.

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OTTAWA, 23rd July, 1900.

*Attorney-General, Victoria.*

Representations made that intimidation exists on Fraser River, and licensed fishermen unable to fish ; matter outside jurisdiction this Department, and pertains to Provincial Government ; can protection be given fishermen ?

JOHN HARDIE,  
*Acting Deputy.*

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VICTORIA, 23rd July, 1900.

*R. B. Lister, Steveston.*

Do not hesitate to increase your force or hire steamers if required to uphold law.

D. M. EBERTS,  
*Attorney-General.*

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VICTORIA, July 23rd, 1900.

*Fraser River Cannery Association, Vancouver, B. C.*

Webster was wired Saturday to report here forthwith ; he will be in Vancouver Wednesday ; cannot explain his delay.

D. M. EBERTS.

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NEW WESTMINSTER, July 24th, 1900.

*D. M. Eberts, Victoria.*

Two hundred Military arrived here at six o'clock ; Japanese fishermen are going out in a body at eight o'clock ; all canning steamboats placed at disposal of police.

R. B. LISTER.

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VICTORIA, B. C. :

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