

19th January 1922.

F. R. McD. Russell, Esq.,

Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Russell:-

Following up our conversation of yesterday morning I would call your attention to the letter from F. M. Chaldecott, which appeared on the editorial page of this morning's Sun. As this letter is written from an angler's standpoint it cannot be ascribed to canners' prppaganda, but it illustrates our case as strongly as if he was one of the fold.

Our complaint has always been that departmental officials situated in Ottawa - 3,000 miles away from the real seat of action - and consisting of men possessing no personal knowledge of conditions surrounding our fisheries, cannot be expected to govern them wisely. What we want and what we have been asking for for years, is to have the fisheries of each province placed in the control of local commissions, empowered to make regulations, and subject only to the Minister himself. The present Inspector of Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries would continue to function but would not be responsible for making regulations or for fish propagation. Such recommendations as they thought advisable they would submit to the Commission by whom it would be considered along with the recommendations of canners, fishermen, anglers, and others interested. Within the past two months the American Congress has been presented with a proposal from Mr. Hoover, the Secretary of Commerce, that the administration of the fisheries of Alaska should be placed in the hands of just such a commission as we desire. It stipulates that the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries (corresponding to our Department of Fisheries) shall not have any membership on the Commission, and that the only one who can approve or disapprove of the Commission's findings shall be the Secretary himself.

I might add that almost, if not all, of the States in the U. S. have local fish commissions to handle their fishery resources, and this in spite of the fact that the territorial areas under state control is comparatively limited. The system which they have found most advantageous applies with still greater force to Canadian provinces since their interests are more deversified, and the areas controlled by them much larger. I hope you can succeed in getting the new minister to accede to our request in this matter.

Yours very truly

HD/P.