CABLE ADDRESS "PACKERS"
A.B.C AND A1 CODES USED.

The British Columbia Packers Association,

Vancouver, B.C. Jan.17,1903. 190

E.Cronyn, Esq.

C/o.AEmilius Jarvis & Co.

Toronto, Ont.

Dear Cronyn:-

Knowing that Mr.Jarvis is indisposed, and consequently not in a position to take up business matters in connection with Ottawa that we discussed during my last visit to your city, I write to you, and would ask that you communicate with Mr.Walker, Senator Cox, or any other influential person such as Mr.Jarvis would see in connection with having the fishery matter at O ttawa dealt with justly.

Some time ago when we wrote about the matters in connection with this department Mr.Jarvis and Mr.Walker went down to Ottawa and had a special interview with Mr.Sutherland. In November last Mr.Jarvis and myself went to Ottawa and had a very agreeable conversation with both Mr.Sutherland and Mr.Prefontaine. At both of these conferences Mr.Sutherland stated that he was heartily in favor of our plan, namely that of giving special privileges to none, but to deal with the entire fishery matter of British Columbia on a broad and comprehensive scale that would recognize all interested parties. During the visit of Mr.Jarvis and myself I stated to Mr. Sutherland, and, I think, also to Mr.Prefontaine, that we were anxious to get purse seines and haul seines granted to whoever cared to take out a license, and pointed out that we were not influenced by

any selfish motives, as such action would deprive us of all our special privileges, which were more numerous than all of the outside ones put together, our object being that if we could get the fishermen there it would develop the business, and we would obtain more, and consequently cheaper fish than wase special privileges granted covering territory too much for one party to work to the same advantage that various smaller operators could do.

As regards traps, I stated that while we were in favor of traps bein g granted we did not attach so much importance to them for several reasons, first, the lack of knowledge as to whether they could be successfully put in and held, and secondly that the granting of them would antagonize all of the fisherman, as they naturally would say that the capital interest were being given traps to the detriment of the labor interest as represented by the fishermen, who could not afford to own traps, and whose business of gill netting and seining would be materially cut into by the operation of traps. I pointed out that the granting of seines would give these people what they wanted and leave the way open to grant the traps at some future date without leaving cause for just complaint from the fishermen. I also said that it would be inadvisable in my opinion to grant trap licenses until the question of jurisdiction, as far as foreshore is concerned, was amicably settled between the two governments.

I give you this review in order to have you understand matters that have come up recently in connection with the trap proposition.

Mr.Prior, the Premier of the Province, and Mr.Eberts, the Attorney General, have given out that they are leaving tomorrow for Ottawa, for the purpose of conferring with the Dominion Government

on matters appertaining to the Province, and among which is included the fishery matter. From the standpoint of those interested in the fishing business, if Mr.Prior is allowed to express his views and obtain what he is going down for, the interest of those who have money in the business to-day will suffer materially. You are probably not familiar with the political situation in this Province, but it is in a very deplorable condition. Some 18 months or so ago, through a change contemplated by the (then) Premier, Mr.Dunsmuir, a split occurred in the Government ranks, and it left Mr.Dunsmuir with the support of only one member more than the opposition ranks contained. This left his tenure of office in a very precarious condition, and steps were taken which, to say the least, savored extremely of dishonesty, in order to retain for him the power of his position. An election in the city of Victoria, necessitated by the death or resignation of one of the members, resulted in the election of Mr.Prior as a government supporter. This election is said to have been obtained by fraudulent means, and contest is now pending in the courts. Amongst other things in connection with the election were promises supposed and understood to have been made by Mr.Prior to certain Victoria parties, that in the event of his election, he would give them, or obtain for them from the Government, the lease of certain foreshore on the South end of Vancouver Island, for the purpose of putting in fish traps. These promises they attempted to carry out after the House met, but owing to the strong representation made by the Fraser River Canners' Association and the opposition such a measure met with in the House, the Government were compelled to abandon action. Mr.Wells, the commissioner of Land & Works, in an interview held with him at the Hotel Vancouver, stated positively to a delegation of the canners

that absolutely no disposition would be made of foreshore until such time as a comprehensive measure could be drafted and submitted to the canners for their consideration. Despite this promise, we continued to hear reports of what the Government intended to do, and a delegation of Fraser River canners went to Victoria and asked the Government in council what steps they would take. They promised to do nothing until such time as the matter was given careful consideration, and the vested interest consulted. They further agreed to give promise in writing to this effect. This not being forthcoming a second delegation visited the Government, and at this interview, they, through Mr.Eberts, stated that no priority would be given to applications already filed, and further that they were now considering the replacing of the foreshore reserve, and in any event no action would be taken during the session of the House, nor until a full and comprehensive scheme was thought out, and then only after those having vested interest in the fisheries of the Province had an opportunity of examining and discussing same, and under no condition would the Government do anything in this connection prejudicial to the interest of the canners. They also agreed to write the Secretary of the Fraser River Canners' Association confirming the above. The Premier, in conformity with the agreement made at this meeting, wrote a letter under date of May 9th copy of which we herewith enclose. This letter does not carry out the promises made, and as a consequence the canners wrote under date of May 10th and received reply under date of the 30th, and I enclose copies of this correspondence as well. From this you can see that the Government were not acting as we desired and as they had said in person they would do.

On June 13th the canners wrote a letter to the Government

concerning the foreshore reserve being lifted, and we enclose copy of this letter, together with the reply from the Government dated the 19th.

The Government took no action, as far as we could learn, in regard to this foreshore matter as long as Mr.Dunsmuir was Premier. Some two months or so ago, however, he resigned in favor of Col.Prior, and since that time active steps have been taken to carry out the promises understood to have been given at the time of his election.

Application were put in by us covering the land applied for by the other parties to whom we had reason to believe these election promises were made, and our applications were made in strict conformity with the Land Act, while the others were not. We made these applications as a protection to our interests, but if the question can be dealt with on a fair basis, in which all of the vested interest (whether they belong to this Association or not) are given equal consideration, we are not anxious to have our applications granted. Out of all of the applications we made we have been notified that some six have been favorably considered, and in going through the records of the Public Works Department we find that all of the others which we put in at exactly the same time have not been considered, but that those of outside parties whose applications were not made in conformity with the Land Act, not made as early as ours were made have been granted, and these parties are the ones whose names have all along been connected with the promises said to have been made by Col.Prior. Since it has become known that the Government was dealing with the foreshore matter protests have been made by our Association, as well as all of the other canners, some of whom had not put in any applications, for

foreshore, but the Government has shown that they will do nothing at all in connection with this matter that is in accordance with the promises made.

At the time of Mr.Dunsmuir's administration the Cabinet consisted of Messrs.Dunsmuir, Prior, Wells, Eberts and Prentice. To-day it is the same Cabinet with the exception that Mr.McInnes has succeeded Mr.Dunsmuir, all of the others retaining office, consequently the two Governments are almost identical, and still in an interview reported with Mr.Prior the other day he is said to have stated that the Dunsmuir Government promises, not being promises made by the Prior government, have no claim for consideration from the Government now in power. That this is a mere subterfuge is clearly shown from the composition of the present Cabinet. We have taken this matter up, and Mr. Richard Hall, one of the members for Victoria, stated in a pessonal interview with one of our Directors that the Government intended to grant the foreshore applications to their friends in Victroia, and that the protest of the vested interest or of the Mainland representatives would not be given consideration; that the Victoria promises made by the Government were going to be carried out, despite any opposition that might be brought against it.

The other day Mr.Geo.Riley called upon one of our Directors and asked what the stand of the canners Association was concerning traps. The matter was laid before us, and we replied that we were opposed strongly to the granting of trap licenses by the Dominion Government until such time as the question of foreshore jurisdiction was settled. We have been opposed all along to any other action, and we are more so than ever now that we feel that were the Dominion Government induced to give trap licenses it would simply be furthering the dishonorable schemes of the present Provin-

cial Government.

I write you this, as Messrs.Prior and Eberts leave tomorrow for Ottawa, and I think that in protection of the interest of the honest people of the community and those like ourselves who do not desire any special privileges, but simply want the matter dealt with so that nobody will have a right to say that favoritism has been shown, that we should be represented at Ottawa, so as to have our views of the matter brought to the consideration of the Dominion authorities at the same time that the Provincial Government state their side of the case. Mr.Jarvis being laid up, I think it would be well if you could induce Mr.Walker, (who is familiar with the matter), to visit Ottawa before Mr.Prior arrives there, and have him explain to the Government the purpose of Mr.Prior's visit, and to enter a formal protest against anything being done with foreshore in this Province until such time as the Government promises to the canners are given due consideration; and I think further that at the time of Mr. Prior's stay in Ottawa that we should have some legal representative there to look out for our interests, and to combat any proposition they might being forth that would seemingly be a protection to the outside interest, and at the same time simply be a cloak to cover their own movements.

Our papers report considerable friction between Mr.Blake and the Liberal party, so that it is just possible that anyone from Blake, Lash & Cassels' office might not be as much good as some other party; however, this is a matter that we will leave to your better judgment, knowing that you will see that we have a proper representative there.

Behind this entire movement of the Provincial Government we have reasons, and very strong ones, for believing that the

whole matter is one which, if the Province succeed in their present underhanded work, will result in turning the trap interest of this Province over to the American trappers. Last July, when this question was at its height, I was approached by a representative of those in Victoria to whom these promises are supposed to have been given, and asked to purchase their claims for the sum of $250,000.00, and stating that in order to prevent any discovery as to who were in the arrangement, that the interest of the various parties had been pooled, and the names of the parties and the location of the land would not be made known until the deal was consummated. I replied that the grants had not yet been given, and that until they were in a position to deliver the goods that they proposed selling, we could not negotiate with them, and that furthermore, in protection of our own interests, we intended to fight the granting of such applications by every means that lay in our power. Shortly after this I was informed that the Alaska Packers Association were negotiating for these privileges, and on investigating the matter, found that they had bonded quite a lot of the foreshore and land fronting same on the South end of Vancouver Island. I afterwards saw it publicly stated that the Alaska Packers' Association had made an offer of $250,000.00 to the Dominion Government for special trap privileges down the Straits of Fuca. I knew that this was incorrect, but believe that they were negotiating with the Victoria trap applicants for their rights for the sum stated. The applications granted by the Provincial Government for traps were dated Dec.23rd, and just prior to that date a representative of the Alaska Packers' Association had numerous interviews with the Provincial Government, and the fact that these applications were made public within a few days after these interviews is, to

our mind, more than a mere coincidence. We have looked into the matter carefully since then, and although we have not the information in such a way as to make a direct charge, I am absolutely convinced from what I have learned through confidential channels that there is no question but that a deal has been made between the Victoria applicants and the Alaska Packers' Association, and I am also of the opinion that the Provincial Cabinet is cognizant of same, if they are not actually parties to it.

Yours truly,

H.D. Sgd.Henry Doyle.