8th September 1921.

H. S. McGowan, Esq.,

McGowan, Wash.

Dear Henry;-

Your letter of the 4th ulto., mailed in error to Vancouver Wash., arrived some days ago but absence from town delayed my acknowledging its receipt earlier. I also wished to advise you of the results of Mr. Clanton's inspection of the Fraser spawning areas, but unfortunately this has not yet been received.

I thank you for the monograph you sent, which I have filed away with other data I collected in 1907 concerning the fight you then made against the damage resultant from releasing young salmon in their fry stage. I have all the articles and letters which appeared in the Pacific Fisherman at that time, including the series of letters signed "Steelhead". Did you ever know that the writer using that non de plume was our B. C. Fish Commissioner, Mr. Jno. P. Babcock ?

Like you I have for many years decried the method employed in hatchery work of liberating the young salmon as soon as the egg sac was absorbed. Sixty or seventy years ago young fish were held until their fingerling age, and in those days gratifying results were obtained from artificial propagation. But with the introduction of wire baskets for holding eggs in hatchery troughs it was found greatly increased quantities of eggs could be successfully hatched. Those engaged in hatchery work thought the release of vast numbers of fry must result in increasing the number of fish that would attain maturity. Following this will-o'-the-wisp idea they soon forgot that holding fish to the fingerling stage had ever been employed, and when the failure of fry plantings to produce satisfactory results caused a few of us to demand that fish be reared until they were able to care for themselves, they raised a hue and cry against this "new innovation" of men possessing no scientific knowledge or training.

Here in Canada those in authority upheld the fry releasing system until most of those commercially engaged in the industry became so exasperated they wished to discontinue artificial propagation entirely. Those advocating this policy, knowing the interest I had always taken in the matter, asked me to join them in a campaign of publicity to effect their purpose. I refused, giving as my reason that because no positive cure for cancer or tuberculosis had as yet

been discovered it would not warrant abandoning all medical research toward that end, and that in like manner it was folly to drop all artificial propagation work simply because past accomplishments had failed of success.

Those opposing hatchery operations were however detirmined they would accomplish their object. To this end they commenced a publicity attack on hatcheries, and also brought political pressure to bear. I found they were likely to achieve their end unless a counter campaign was launched that, while condemning the existing system, would still permit a continuance of propagation activities. I therefore wrote articles for the press, laid political wires of my own, and was finally successful in preventing the others from carrying their point.

As yet however I had not converted these opponents into supporters of the rearing pond system. But in June 1920 the Canadian Fisheries Association held their annual convention in this city and through the courtesy of Mr. F. M. Warren, I arranged for Mr. Clanton to deliver an illustrated lecture on his accomplishments at Bonnieville. What he showed had actually been accomplished was so convincing that those opposed to hatchery work, became enthusiastic for the rearing pond system, and have since, financially and otherwise, strongly supported my efforts in this direction. At the convention itself the only discordant voices were those of the government service, (as you can see by the proceedings as recorded in the Canadian Fisherman for June 1920, copy of which I am forwarding you), but even these subsequently visited Bonnieville to see for themselves the system employed. Since then practically every hatchery in B. C. is holding their production in rearing ponds to as great an extent as their financial resources will permit. This season (1921) 8,000,000 will be held and next season they expect to hold 50,000,000. Public opinion became so insistent no other course was possible, and, if in due course, we obtain the results hoped for, there can be no question but that the rearing pond system will be exclusively used in salmon propagation.

In trying to restore the Fraser sockeye fishery what I have most to contend with is the apathy of those most to be benefited by the work. Many of them look upon the Fraser as done for and begrudge spending money for what they consider a hopeless undertaking. More of them wish to leave it to the government to supply the necessary funds and to do the work. And they argue in favour of this despite the lamentable failure of past governmental performances, and the recognized slowness of all governments to make sufficient appropriations or pay proper salaries for what is required. However under the stimulus of Mr. Clanton's recommendations I hope they will be enthused to commence the work as a private proposition and once they commit themselves to the task I have no doubt of their seeing it through.

Mr. Clanton expressed himself as agreeably astonished at the extent of available sites for rearing pond culture on the Fraser watershed. There were places that far surpassed anything possible for

the Columbia, and some of these were so vast that Bonnieville could be hidden in one corner of them. He said that in his opinion there was no reason why the Fraser sockeye fishery could not be fully restored, and that quickly, and with comparatively little expense. We are awaiting his report with great interest and hope it will not be much longer delayed. Knowing that anything of this natue is of interest to you I will send you a copy of the report as soon as it is available.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

HD/P.