[illegible] January 1910.

[illegible] ite ashamed of myself for the long time [illegible] to your letter of 19th October, but find [illegible] that there are some extenuating circumstances [illegible] me on the eve of my being called to Northern [illegible] r elections coming on, and it was well into Dec- [illegible] I again reached this city. The holidays then took me out [illegible] once more before I had a chance of giving you the desired information, but I will now try and make amends.

As regards the "blue nosed" and "white nosed" sockeyes I am of the opinion there is no more importance to be attached to their differences than might apply to the variation noticeable in the size of fish in one run as compared to another. I have not heard of the two varieties being found in Rivers Inlet sockeyes, but have seen the blue and white nosed fish on both the [illegible] Skeena rivers, as well as the Naas, and am satisfied it [illegible] found to exist in all other localities where the rivers [illegible] length, and have numerous tributary streams in which the [illegible] posit their spawn.

It has been claimed by some packers that the [illegible] e in the river of white nosed fish indicated a heavy run, [illegible] the blue nosed were taken as a sign the sockeyes were com- [illegible] tively scarce. My own experience however, has lead me to the [illegible] clusion that this is an opinion derived from Indian prophesies

source is not
dance I have seen
given up basing any estimate of
appearance in the fish.
liever in the "home stream" theory,
ish returning to the river they originated
ir return to the particular tributary waters
they hatched out in. I am likewise of the opinion
eturn from the sea in more or less of a general order
on the distance inland of the waters of their nativity,
ish which were born in the upper tributaries of a certain
be the first to return at the end of their fourth year;
those from tributaries next lower down would be the next to ascend;
and those originating in the river branches nearest the sea would be
the last to put in an appearance.

As far as my observations have gone the first run, or
runs, on all the larger rivers of the province have consisted largely
of the white nosed sockeye. Blue nosed fish are to be found amongst
the former largely predominate. Later on when those seeking
spawning grounds enter the river the blue noses are most
ce, although white nosed individuals are still to be ob-
n both cases I look upon such individuals as differ from
rity as stragglers whose sexual development has either
sed or retarded their desire to enter fresh water, and I
e they will eventually arrive at the same spawning beds to
ich the main body of similarily marked fish are proceeding.

On the Skeena and Naas rivers the white nosed fish

condition of the
a good or poor
ly runs have been practically
that no attention has been paid
it has attracted particular attention
believe to be due to the fact that a large
al run are of fish bound for upper spawning
the Fraser, even in its palmiest days, - before
ing ever commenced - the run to the waters beyond the
of the Thompson and Fraser never was a material factor in
on life of the river, and the overwhelming percentage of blue
bed, fish caused the others to pass un-
noticed.

I was much amused at an interview with Dr Jordan published in a Victoria paper just after your return from the Naas, in which he is quoted as saying the fish of the Skeena and Naas rivers were an entirely distinct species from those found further south, and that he was astonished those engaged in the canning industry on those rivers had not previously made the discovery. doubt the paper misquoted Dr Jordan as certainly the very sit he paid those rivers would absolutely preclude his intelligent opinion, and I am sure he would never think the authority of his decisions to brand surmises as facts. given the subject the necessary time he could have fallen into h error, for he would have seen the variations in runs were the e as in other sections, and would also have discovered that the xceptionally large fish we were capturing at the time of his visit

[illegible] fore and after
[illegible] ed materially from them in
[illegible]

[illegible] r of about the same date where
[illegible] on that the ocean habitat of the Fraser
[illegible] Juan de Fuca Straits. I was very pleased
[illegible] ur judgement corroborated mine. I came to a
[illegible] five or six years ago and prepared a paper on the
[illegible] ed it to Mr Babcock at Victoria and on his advice
[illegible] to Mr Bower, the U. S. Commissioner, suggesting the
[illegible] should test the practibility of the idea in an invest-
igation off the mouth of the Columbia, where it could, if anything,
be done more thoroughly than at any other point I knew of. Mr Bower
acknowledged without any comment on its purport, but replied the
Government could not see their way clear to undertake such an in-
vestigation as "nothing was known of the deep sea life of salmon."
In the face of such a brilliant reason for not prosecuting researches
I let the matter drop, hoping that our own government would furnish
[illegible] similar boat to the "Albatross" and that I could try any
[illegible] s investigated by it.

I hope you will not find this long epistle too tire-
[illegible] trust that if you want any further information which it is
[illegible] ver to give you will not hesitate to command me. I take a
[illegible] ep interest in all questions appertaining to fish, and more
[illegible] ally salmon, ~~life~~ and the conclusions I have come to differ
[illegible] terially from those held by the majority of the fishery experts
and commissioners on both sides of the international boundary line.

P. T. O.

I would like to have my opinions corrected if they are erroneous, or quoting by those in authority if proven correct, and to this end would welcome as extensive a correspondence as you, or any other interested party may have the time and inclination to carry on.

Yours sincerely

Henry Doyle