PERSONAL.

15th December 1921.

F. W. Wallace, Esq.,
Gardenvale, Que.

My dear Wallace;-

In replying to your letter of the 7th inst., I am not expressing regrets at your departure from Canada, but rather congratulations on your transfer to a larger sphere of usefulness. I am convinced that in your new position you can do more good to our Canadian fishery problemns, as well as American ones, than was possible in the limited field you have been working in.

The minds of government officials revolve in a very narrow orbit. As a rule they can only see with the eyes of their superior officials, no matter how much more ignorant they may know such superior to be, as compared to themselves, in a knowledge of the matters to be decided. But in addition they are bound by precedent to such an extent that no matter how conclusive proof a practical fish man might offer in support of his views, if it differs from the method of scientists in the employ of other governments they refuse to entertain it. They consider it almost sacrilégious for laymen to dispute the findings of savants.

As the United States adjoins Canada,and being so much more heavily populated, their fishery administration stands out more prominently before our Ottawa friends than do those of any other country. Our administrators'ideas and methods, consciously or unconsciously, are modelled on theirs and doubtless will continue so in future. Therefore to change the Canadian line of thought and proceedure, it is first necessary to change the source from which their ideas emanate.

The Fishing Gazette is in a position to do more good to the industry it is supposed to represent than any other publication on this continent. Unfortunately in the past it has suffered greatly from dry rot, but with new blood and new ideas it should easily regain its former prestige. American fishery administrators, both Federal and State, suffer from the same disabilities as our own, but having no higher authorities to lean on, their mistakes remain uncorrected. In the final analysis however public opinion must rule their actions, and trade papers, as the voice of the people, are the instruments by which this can be accomplished.

F. W. W. #2.

If in your new sphere you keep in touch with the fishing industry; learn through their experience the fallacy of many of the present methods and ideas of government administrative heads; and proclaim such findings through the medium of the Fishing Gazette, you will not only build up a valuable clientele for your paper, but will make its influence paramount in the legislative and administrative quarters, first in the United States itself, and indirectly in Canada.

It is for these reasons I welcome and congratulate you on the step you have taken, and wish you every success. When I next visit New York I hope to behold you ensconced in the editorial chair and to note that it is a snug fit. And I entertain no doubt that in a few years your influence and advancement will be such that you can look back at that same editorial chair and wonder how in the world you were once able to squeeze yourself into such a small compass.

Wishing you all the Compliments of the Season,

Yours very sincerely

HD/P.