

7th April 1921.

E. B. Deming, Esq.,

Bellingham, Wash.

Dear Mr Deming:-

I am in receipt of yours of the 5th inst., and note you did not have any talk with Mr Fortmann about Fraser river propagation matters.

I spent the greater part of to-day with Messrs Ramswell, Sims and Blake, discussing the Puget Sound-Fraser situation with them, and subsequently we had a couple of the local canners join us. The above named gentlemen left on the afternoon train for Seattle, and Mr Sims said they would discuss the situation with Mr McCord, and would like you to see the latter gentleman the first time you are in Seattle.

The fact that Canada has formerly ratified the proposed international treaty puts them in the position that pending notification from the American government as to its intention either to withdraw or ratify the said treaty, their hands are tied. It would be infra dig for them to meanwhile recognize your local state government, as such action would imply a belief that the U. S. did not intend to abide by the treaty entered into by its commissioners. That such belief may be well founded does not alter the situation as far as the Canadian government is concerned.

Under the circumstances your Fish Board and our government authorities have no immediate chance of getting together. On the other hand immediate action is necessary to obtain the best results. It was therefore proposed that a joint meeting of the fishing interests of the Sound and Fraser river should meet as soon as possible, and mutually agree on satisfactory regulations. When this was done our canners could ask the Dominion government to bring down an Order-in-Council making the proposed new regulations lawful, and your canners could ask the Fish Board to take like action. In this way the desired results could be accomplished without stepping on governmental toes or creating any diplomatical breach. It was left for to-day's visitors to see the Sound canners and arrange for a date - next week if possible - for the joint meeting, and we hope to hear shortly that this has been done.

As regards propagation work your Board was anxious that they be allowed by our government to directly participate in this work in British Columbia. We pointed out to them that Canada would never consent to this, for the dual reasons that it would be establishing for the State of Washington a ~~proprietary~~ proprietary

