

Copy.

Port Essington, B.C. Jany. 29/17

Messrs

City.

Dear Sirs:-

Since there was an humour that the canners of District No.2 are of opinion that the price of sockeye this year will be 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢, it gave alarm to Japanese fishermen and contractors, disappointing them greatly, the humour being supposed to have leaked from one of canners.

At the meeting of contractors who are in this city here, including those of Skeena, Rivers Inlet, Naas, and others, held on Friday and Saturday last, it was resolved to the effect that it must strongly be appealed to the canners of District No.2 to establish the price of sockeye at 20 cents, and humpback, dogs, and spring salmon as requested first, otherwise to refuse their contract this year, on the ground that they are unable to secure men.

There is great demand of Japanese labourers for logging, railway, and factories outside of city and particularly at the distant places at good wages, and hundreds have left Vancouver already and hundreds are being expected to leave in near future to where they can earn from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a day through year. Condition being so, unless the price of fish be advanced as requested, the contractors can hardly fulfil their contract, which caused them to resolve as above.

It is my hearty desire that you will be pleased to accept their request that they may continue their services, and ensure their loyal and energetic efforts in carrying their contract with the canners.

And be pleased to understand that these contractors are very much anxious to secure good men in order to give the canners satisfaction, and unless they think they can get men, they prefer not to contract.

Trusting you will kindly consider the matter at the meeting of the Canners Association, and hoping this matter can be settled through your help, as soon as possible in order to hold men from leaving this city, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Can. Japanese Association Branch,

per S. Shinobu