CABLE ADDRESS "PACKERS"
A.B.C AND A1 CODES USED.

The British Columbia Packers Association,

Vancouver, B.C. Dec.16, 1902. 190

(C o p y)

Messrs.H.Bell-Irving & Co.

C I T Y.

Ge n tlemen:-

We understand that it is your desire that we give you some idea of what we will be willing to agree to for Rivers Inlet and the Skeena River before a general meeting is called, so that we would have some definite policy outlined before such meeting should be held, and that you would like us to give you a memorandum of this, so that you could study same out at your leisure.

As far as ~~Rivers Inlet~~ Skeena River is concerned, the agreement as proposed by Mr.Lord seems quite satisfactory. This agreement we understand to be practically a re-enforcement of the agreement made on April 2nd, 1902, at Port Essington, with the addition of clauses covering the following points:-

1. Transportation of Japanese and white fishermen to be paid one way, but transportation of Indians not to be paid either way.

2. That no advances shall be made to fishermen, whites, Japanese or Indians, until the agreement is signed by them, individually, to fish at 7¢ for Sockeyes, Steelhead and Cohoes, 25¢ for Red Spring caught in spring nets, and 21¢ for Red Springs caught in Sockeye nets. Humpback, 1¢ per fish; all of the prices to be for cannery gear.

3. No change to be made in this agreement before, say Nov.1st, 1903 unless made at regularly called meeting of the local managers.

4. Bonds to be put up by the various parties to bind this agreement, such bonds being the same as those put up by the Fraser River canners to bind their agreement with the Fraser River Canners' Association.

Rivers Inlet. We have gone carefully over the memorandum submitted by the managers after their meeting of Nov.7th last, but our idea is that the agreement should be made substantially, as follows:-

1. That pooling of raw material is not considered practical, owing to the trouble caused by the Klootchmen and Chinese contractors, and the difficulty in making distributions of fish, and the excess labor that it necessitates.

2. As the question of controlling the fishermen is now far easier a matter, with only three parties interested, than was the case with seven independent operators, the agreement made on June 23rd, 1902, should be made part of this proposed agreement, viz: that the canneries that in the past two years have had the services of certain tribes are to be left in undisputed possession of such tribes to the same extent that they have enjoyed in the past, that is to say, that in case they have had the exclusive control over any particular tribe, they are to continue to enjoy same; but where one concern has three fourths of one tribe, and another the other fourth, the relative proportions should be maintained. Thus, your having the Bella Bella Indians, and Messrs. Findlay, Durham & Brodie having the Kitimatts, you would continue to have those, without any attempt on our part to try and induce, or to accept, the services of members of those tribes to fish for us; you treating our fishermen in the same manner.

3. That the boat rating for Rivers Inlet for the season of 1903

be the same as that for 1899, viz:

Wadhams Cannery	103
Brunswick Cannery	86
Wannuck Cannery	71
Vancouver Packing Co.	67
Total	327
B.C.Canning Co.	142
Good Hope Cannery	95

This, we might point out, is a reduction on the number of boats that our Company fished last year of 44 boats, while it is an increase to the B.C.Canning Co. of 14, and leaves your cannery with a decrease of 2.

4. In view of the two preceding clauses, which do away, first, with the competition for fishermen, and, second, puts the boats on a limit, we can see no reason for pooling the canned product, as, all starting out on a fair basis, it would be unjust to the party who has most industrious, or lucky fishermen. With the two preceding points agreed to, the resulted pack should be dealt with without the necessity of pooling same.

5. The price of fish to be 7¢ with cannery gear, 9½¢ for men fishing their own nets.

6. That no sale of nets be made to any fishermen whatsoever, whites Japanese or Indians.

7. A runner to be allowed for each tribe, to be paid at the rate of $2.50 per day, time not to exceed two months.

8. Wages of Klootchmen to be 12½¢ per hour for washing, &c., and 30 trays for $1.00 for fillers.

9. Transportation to be supplied Japanese and whites one way, and Indians, both ways.

10. As discontinuing of bonuses may be too drastic, it might be advisable to allow a bonus of $10.00 per crew of two men. No bonus allowed single fisherme n.

11. No advances to be made to fishermen, whites, Japanese or Indians until agreement is signed to fish at prices named for the season.

12. No change to be made to the agreement before Nov.1st, 1903, unless made at regularly called meeting of the local managers.

13. Bonds to be put up by the various parties to bind this agreement on the same lines as those put up to bind the agreement on the Fraser River with the Fraser River Canners' Association.

If these suggestions meet with your concurrence, we shall be very pleased to have a regular meeting called at any time that suits your convenience, or the convenience of the other canners.

In making agreements for the North, as a matter of protection, (not only to ourselves, but to the other companies interested in both places), we would want two agreements, one covering Rivers Inlet, and the other Skeena, entered into at the same time.

Yours truly,

H.D.

Vancouver, Dec. 16, 1902.

[illegible] may be too drastic, it might be advisable to [illegible] $10.00 per crew of two men. No bonus allowed single fishermen.

11. No advances to be made to fishermen, whites, Japanese or Indians until agreement is signed to fish at prices named for the season.

12. No change to be made to the agreement before Nov. 1st, 1903, unless made at regularly called meeting of the local managers.

13. Bonds to be put up by the various parties to bind this agreement on the same lines as those put up to bind the agreement on the Fraser River with the Fraser River Canners' Association.

If these suggestions meet with your concurrence, we shall be very pleased to have a regular meeting called at any time that suits your convenience, or the convenience of the other canners.

In making agreements for the North, as a matter of protection, (not only to ourselves, but to the other companies interested in both places), we would want two agreements, one covering Rivers Inlet, and the other Skeena, entered into at the same time.

Yours truly,

H.D.

Letter Dec 16th 1902
to Bell Irving