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January 29th 1905.

Mr J.P.Babcock,

Victoria,B.C.

Dear Mr Babcock;-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 28th inst.,and thank you both for the information contained therein and for your promptness in answering me so fully.

I read with interest your article in the Pacific Fisherman, also the one in the S.F.Trade Journal,and while heartily in accord with you as to the overfishing during the past few years,I cannot agree at all with your general contention that the salvation of the industry depends on a total cessation of fishing in 1906 and 1908.During your absence in California,the News-Advertiser,amongst other papers,came out editorially in advocacy of the closure,and I replied to them in two open letters.I pointed out that,contrary to the contention of the advocates of a closed season,there was a heavier run in 1904 than the average for the former years in that cycle.I also tried to show that there is no proper reason why any such drastic measures should be adopted.

I can see a smile coming over your face when you read this,and can imagine you saying to yourself "Here is another one of those fellows who are willing to let the gains they hope for at present,out weigh the future conservation of the industry".However as far as I am personally concerned this would be an erroneous impression,for from the standpoint of a Skeena river canner I have everything to gain by such a closing down,while my Fraser interests I have no expectations of returns from, [illegible] Fraser river packed 100,000 cases in the years in question. [illegible] desiring to appear in any way egotistical,I believe I [illegible] on this question than anyone else in the province,not [illegible] yourself.I do not pretend to any knowledge of the scient-

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fic aspect of the situation, but from a practical standpoint I believe I can show you quite a few things materially affecting the future prospects of the Fraser river salmon runs. It has always been a hobby of mine to study up the conditions surrounding the business, and from frequent visits to the various cannery centers, I have probably had more opportunity than most people to make observations.

At the present time it would not be convenient for me to go to Victoria to see you, nor in doing so would I have the same opportunity to produce my evidence, but if you could come up to Vancouver I have little doubt but that I can succeed in convincing you that your present views are wrong, and that you are working from a supposition primarially at fault. I know your most natural thought is that you have no time to waste looking into every theory that men may get from their own experiences, but I assure you I am certain you will entirely alter your future course when we have had a talk and you see my facts. Even by your own observations I think I can show you that there is no necessity of closing down in the years in question, and that it will be advisable to ask the Ottawa Government to disregard the advice you have been offering.

I understand the delegation expect an answer from the Minister on Tuesday, and from various sources I believe they anticipate it will be favorable to their request. I am so thoroughly convinced that such action will almost constitute a crime, that I have been doing all in my power to have the Department wait until they learn more about this question before giving a decision. In going over some of my papers to-day I became so [illegible] of the correctness of my views that I felt that if I could [illegible] with you, it would result in your wiring the delegation [illegible] r present labor as you had learned there was no nec- [illegible] drastic step.

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With this object in view I to-night wired Mr Riley as follows; "Understand Babcock who has just returned from California is responsible for inducing canners advocate closed seasons.Think can convince him his error.Will government agree postpone decision until Babcock reports after hearing my arguments."

To show you that my opinions are not simply the ignorance of youth,I may tell you that I have yet to meet a single practical canner who has paid close attention to the fishing phase of his business,that is of belief that there should be a closed season.Men like Mr Ewen,Mr A Alexander,Mr Barker,and others who are admittedly practical men,have protested against the proposed measure,and of the canners who are advocating it,I have yet to hear of one who can lay claim to any knowledge of the labor,or actual working end,of the industry.They are all men whose connection with the business has been in the financing,or selling end, and here they could not expect to obtain more than a theoretical knowledge of the more technical end.

Trusting that you will give this letter serious consideration, and that I will have the pleasure of seeing you shortly,I am

Very sincerely

Henry Doyle

H.D.