Vancouver, B. C.

March 6th. 1917.

Letter to Dom. Fisheries Ottawa from R.V. Winch Sec. Prepared by HT

-RE JACOBSON.

It might be advisable to telegraph the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, stating that we are now taking affidavits from the fishermen who operated boats on Birks' Channel last year, and from the settlers at Bella Coola, and asking him not to make any definite decision regarding this License until there has been a thorough report gotten out regarding the quantity of fish at Bella Coola and Birks' Channel.

If the Deputy Minister has any doubts as regards to the fish we could satisfy him on this point with affidavits from individuals, and I believe that the Fish Inspectors in British Columbia, both Mr. Williams and Mr. Cunningham, are thoroughly posted regarding these waters and know that there is abundance of fish in that neighborhood for two Canneries just as well as there is abundance of fish in Deans' Channel, which is only a few miles farther North and runs inland ninety miles, the same as Birks' Channel. There are two Canneries on this Channel and there are far more fish in Birks' Channel and South Bentinck Arm than in Deans' Channel.

Mr. Jacobson and his associates, the residents of Bella COOLA, have applied to us to finance them for the coming season, and we feel that if they are going to operate this year, we will have to move quickly. His Company will be comprised of some twelve individuals all residents of the Province of British Columbia, including a good many of his friends at Bella Coola.

The B. C. Packers, we understand, have put in a protest and are using every endeavor, through Amelius Jarvis of Toronto, to block

this application.

The B. C. Packers is a Company with a capital of $ operating in British Columbia, with the majority of the stock held in Boston - very little of it in Canada and hardly any in British Columbia. As they hold very nearly half of the fishing rights in the Province, we feel that they should not be encouraged to increase their plants, and deprive the residents of the Province of British Columbia and British Subjects from having their just rights.

The B. C. Packers have agreed to take care of all the fish in that neighborhood by increasing their plant this year. They never fished half the waters in Birks' Channel, and they do not know whether they are able to take care of it or not. They have never done so yet. They have thrown millions of fish away in previous years and never canned any. This year the fishermen caught as many as 800 to the boat but limited them to 150. South Bentinck Arm and the lower part of Birks' Channel were never fished by them.

It is almost impossible for the Government to refuse British subjects a license in waters where there is abundance of fish and where one citizen has stood on the banks of the river for ten years or more waiting for the Government to grant him a license. Now they have been granting them all along the Coast. Take, for instance, Smith's Inlet - this Inlet has been operated by the ~~Draney~~ Wallace Fisheries. Their Cannery has been in this location for years. The Government not knowing the quantity of fish that could be packed there, until they had satisfied themselves last year, and the pack was a great deal less than on Birks' Channel, granted Mr. Thomas a license. His application had been in about as long as Mr. Jacobsons.

All the parties who have had their applications in for licenses in localities where there were sufficient fish for them to erect a cannery, and whose applications have been standing as long as fifteen years, have all been granted, excepting Mr. Jacobsons and his case is the most favorable one of the lot.

We should ask the Department, by telegram, if they feel it is necessary for us to proceed to Bella Coola and other points in order to get evidence to prove to the Government that there is abundance of fish for two Canneries to pack from 25,000 to 35,000 cases of fish each year, without interfering with the B. C. Packers' investment or stopping them from putting up the average pack that they have done for the past five years. It will not deplete the fish in any way nor interfere with there being sufficient Salmon to get up to the spawning grounds. The Channel is a wide one and very deep and the Fish Inspectors have the ground well laid out so that the fish are well protected.