

12670 Ventura Blvd.,
North Hollywood, Cal.
8th June 1957.

R. L. Payne, Esq.,
#2760 Blanca Street,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Payne;-

I am in receipt of your favour of the 30th ulto.

Your wish to read my manuscript is not at all presumptuous: in fact my only excuse for writing it was that those who followed me might know and profit by what happened when the industry was young: could learn from it how the pioneers developed and utilized their opportunities: and what their experiences indicates ~~what~~ can be applied to problems of the future.

But I am afraid it is not feasible at the present time to gratify your wish. My manuscript constitutes a book of over 400 pages which is, and will continue to be, an unfinished story until publication. My intention is to apply the lessons of the past to the requirements of the future and each passing year alters and amends that picture.

For example, I am at the present time altering my account of the Behring Sea salmon fishery in order to bring it up to date and to show what effect Japanese "mothership" operations have had, and are having, on the Red salmon runs to that area. The 1957 Annual Pacific Fisherman's listing of the 1956 Behring Sea canned salmon pack recorded it (p.89) as 680,072 cases, and it comments (p87) "The run was far from the greatest ever known." On the strength of this showing drastic closed seasons have been, and will continue to be enforced, to prevent overfishing.

Nothing in these figures took into account the Japanese activities. Their motherships operated in the Aleutian area and 9,633,546 red salmon were captured and canned there. Almost all of these fish were of Behring Sea origin and were ~~of~~ the progeny of 1951 and 1952 spawnings. Add their pack to what was canned by American packers the district's total, plus escapement, would appear to constitute probably the largest run the 1956 cycle year has even known. Yet the records do not show it nor, apparently, has any authority, governmental authority or press, drawn attention to the situation.

My story covers the entire period from the beginning of the salmon canning industry in the 1860s up to 1902 when the Pacific Fisherman began publication, The portion dealing with British Columbia embraces the early Hudson Bay days and on up to the present time, including the current salmon fishery vs. hydro-electric controversy. I believe much of my data is worthwhile being permanently recorded but I would be unwilling to have it cut and pruned to suit the ideas of those who are too cautious to commit themselves while critical of others who write what their own experiences have taught them.

Yours faithfully

HD/P.