12670 Ventura Blvd.,
North Hollywood, Cal.
27th May 1957.

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

Dear Mr. Payne;-

I have for acknowledgment your favour of the 24th inst., and have to thank you for all the complimentary remarks contained therein.

I do not know if you are aware that in addition to the data on British Columbia's salmon fisheries another, and the larger collection, dealing with American operations, is in the University of Washington Library in Seattle. Besides these I still retain here for reference purposes a collection of small, pocket sized, books which record the daily deliveries and daily packs, etc., of the different canneries I was interested in. Another of these books contains the dates of origin, names of packing companies, changes of ownership, and yearly packs from their dates pf incipiency of most of the canning companies of all areas from the Sacramento river to Behring Sea. On my demise these little books are destined to be added to those the U.B.C. already possesses.

I was rather amused at the main theme of your letter under reply, i.e., that some one should record a complete history of the salmon canning industry. I also harboured the same thought and over ten years ago commenced its compilation.

I might preface my remarks by stating my father opened the first fishing supplies business on the Pacific Coast in San Francisco in 1875, just ten years after salmon canning started on the coast. At that time San Francisco was the fountain head for all operators from there to, and including, British Columbia and Alaska, and he knew and dealt with the original operators in every cannery section of the Pacific Coast. Thus from earliest childhood I was in constant touch with these pioneers. As the years passed I personally dealt with these cannerymen, many of whom became life long friends. I knew personally all the Humes; I married a daughter of M.M. English who built his first cannery on the Fraser River in 1877; was associated with Alexander Ewen and other pioneers pf Fraser, Skeena and Naas rivers; and thus acquired a knowledge of the accomplishments of all. I therefore thought I was in a unique position for recording the earlier history of the salmon canning industry.

I completed my manuscript in the summer of 1950 and as I had been personally acquainted with Dr. David Starr Jordan and Dr. Chas. H. Gilbert and knew their desires of making Stanford University a centre of piscatorial education I wrote the Stanford University Press asking if it would like to review my effort. The editor replied they would not care to do so because he considered its publication would not produce a profit ! !

I then wrote the University of Washington Press and after reading my manuscript its editor, Dr. W. M. Read, wrote me he had found my account "intensely interesting and well worth publishing" and that he "hoped the members of their fisheries staff will be as enthusiastic about it as I am."

However, the fisheries staff did not wholely share Dr. Read's opinion. Their opinion was that they would advise "publishing the book on the history of the industry alone. Such a book would be tremendously interesting and Mr. Doyle presented a lot of fine material in his book but the author is not qualified as a biologist, a subject of which he obviously knows nothing, especially in view of the fact that there is a fisheries school here and a number of research agencies working on salmon in the area."

As the main objects I had in view was to apply the history of the past as a guidance for the future, and especially to emphasise that the laissez faire attitude of both commercial operators and fisheries officials if persisted in spelt ultimate total disaster, I declined to acquiesce in condensing my story to the outlines proposed.

In 1952 I was in Seattle and, on Dr. Read's suggestion, I had an interview with Dr. Van Cleeve, the University's fishery expert who had turned thumbs down on my manuscript as it had been written. Dr. Van Cleeve denied that my biological ignorance was the reason for its rejection. The real reason, he emphasized, was that my opinions did not agree with theirs ! !

In the seven years that have elapsed since my manuscript was completed I have had the satisfaction of seeing practically every one of my contentions positively proved, even those concerning the apathy of the fishery operators and of all governmental authorites save the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission and Hon. James Sinclair, Dominion Minister of Fisheries. And, I am happy to add that both these authorities' publically proclaimed views coincide with those I advocated and which Dr. Van Cleeve found unworthy of consideration.

With kindest regards,

Yours faithfully

HD/P.