

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 of 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 of 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 !!

