

[1951]

NOTE

The fishery expert advised publishing the book on the history of the industry alone, eliminating all the rest of the subject matter presumably for the reason that I, not being a biologist, am, in his opinion, unqualified to pass judgement on matters of policies or procedures.

Were such limitations applied to historians of the Napoleonic era only high ranking professional soldiers should comment on the emperor's military career. Others, lacking this qualification, should be confined to recording Napoleon's social and civilian activities and accomplishments. Such a book would be a poor substitute for real history.

Or, to take a more modern example and applying the fishery expert's line of reasoning to it, let us assume a life history of Winston Churchill was contemplated. To attain trustworthy standing only,
a recognized literary authority should deal with the productions of his pen,
an acknowledged artist estimate his ability as a painter,
a trained diplomat judge of his statesmanship,
a skilled parliamentarian assess the value of his political accomplishments,
a professional brickmason appraise his skill in laying bricks,
and only a cigar smoker describe his devotion to my Lady Nicotine.

My review of the first fifty years of the salmon canning industry and the sketches of the pioneers who participated therein were but the tinsel and trappings designed to make the account interesting to a larger audience than just biologists and other specialists. My main thought was to call public attention to three important existing propositions, viz.,

1. that our salmon runs have not been decimated by over-fishing,
2. that governmental fishery authorities have failed to carry out the duties they assumed when taking office, and
3. that if they live up to those obligations and put into effect the changes and innovations suggested and recommended by eminent fish biologists and other specialists, and adopt practices such as have been successfully applied in similar fields of animal culture, they can build up our fishery resources to volumes undreamt of to-day.

I submit that against the judgement of your fishery expert my convictions are supported by the extracts and opinions of those eminent recognized authorities I quoted in my book and by data compiled by the fishery officials themselves. These I enumerate in part as follows together with the page number in my manuscript on which the supporting evidence can be found:-

