

Shaw (? chairman), and Iber Founder, Indian Agent for the Bella Coola Agency:

- Q. In a general way would you consider that the Indians have as many fishing stations reserved for them as are reasonably necessary for their requirements?
- A. Well I don't know that they complain about not having sufficient fishing stations so much as their right to fish when and where they like.
...they fish for the canneries and fish wherever the canneries ask them to fish.
- Q. The Kitimaat Indians spoke more earnestly than any other Indians about requiring additional places for fishing. Have they, in your opinion, sufficient fishing stations?
- A. Of course at present they fish wherever they like. They are not debarred from fishing at any place, reserve or no reserve. They just fish where they like.
- (Chairman felt this didn't answer his question, to which Founder replied he couldn't predict future needs)
- Q. They are not asking for Crab river as a fishing station so much as as a village site?
- A. No.
- Q. They (the Dolphin Indians) want Crab River as a permanent village site?
- A. Yes. One reason that they allege for requiring this place is on account of its distance from the line of communication. They say they are practically cut off from the outer world during the winter months.
- Q. Did not the Indians say that the Japs and others had seiners at the mouth of certain streams which they wanted for themselves?
- A. Yes. Each band has a certain part of the Coast which by their own arrangement they consider their own for fishing purposes. Each family has a particular creek or creeks, and I think many at one time had seining licenses issued in their own names for the creeks which they consider their own, but lately the canneries have had those licenses issued directly to them, and have employed Japanese to the exclusion of the Indians. These are the grounds of their complaint.
- Q. Are these creeks on the reserves or off the reserves?
- A. They are adjacent to them; sometimes they run through them.
- Q. Do these licenses infringe upon the legal rights of the Indians on the reserves?
- A. I don't know; I could not say.
- Q. Do the Indians complain that these seines and nets are used at the mouths of the rivers of the reserves?
- A. Yes. The Indians are complaining of that I believe.
- Q. (re: if the seining licenses infringe upon the rights of the Indians isn't it up to the Fisheries Department?)
- A. I don't know as to that. The Indians complain that there are no fishing limit posts on some of the creeks and that there are others fishing beyond the proper limits, particularly in the Kitimaat district.