1938

Codfish Situation 16

Council March 28

CITY ARCHIVES
LOCATION 27-D-1
FILE NO. 18

AGENDA

Nov. 10/38

C
O
P
Y

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

Ottawa, 9th November, 1938.

Sir,-

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo enclosing resolution approved by the Vancouver City Council to the effect that information pertaining to alleged breach of Fishery Regulations, contained in the report of a Special Committee of Council appointed to enquire into cod fish marketing at Vancouver, be referred to this Department for attention.

From a perusal of the portion of the Committee's report that was enclosed with your letter, the irregularity suggestion has to do with the issue of cod fishing licenses, i.e., the Special Committee is of the opinion that the regulation requiring all holders of such licenses shall be British subjects is not being strictly enforced.

All fishery officers are required to exercise great care that fishing licenses are issued to none other than qualified applicants. In fact, if there should be any doubt as to the credentials of any applicant, they are referred to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for investigation. These arrangements are deemed to be such that if there is irregularity it would likely involve an isolated case only and, to assist in checking the situation, it would be of value if the Special Committee would furnish details of the information it has in the premises, giving the names of any persons who might be in a position to assist in our enquiries. It would save time if this were supplied directly to our Chief Supervisor of Fisheries at Vancouver, Major J. A. Motherwell.

While other parts of the report are not specifically referred to the Department for attention, a number of the observations made therein would suggest that certain aspects of this Department's administration and the regulative measures in force were not fully explored by the Committee. Our Chief Supervisor at Vancouver would have been in a position to give full information on these points.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) Wm. A. Found,
Deputy Minister.

Fred Howlett, Esq.,
City Clerk,
Vancouver, B. C.

1938

Codfish Situation
Council March 28

15

AGENDA

Nov. 10/38

4406-11th Ave. E
Vancouver B.C.

RECEIVED
BY CITY CLERK
NOV 14 1938
REFERRED TO Ent.
See D.R.O.

Mr. Howlett.
City Clerk.
Vancouver B.C.

Dear Sir.

As a taxpayer, & a Returned man. on small pension I would appreciate an opportunity to act as a Poll Clerk in the coming Civic Elections I have been out of work for a considerable period, & would be thankful for any thing that would enable me to reduce my arrears in taxes thanking you in anticipation

I remain.

Yours Truly

Alfred Woodall

1938

Coalfish Situation
Council March 28

15

Codfish Enquiry

The Corporation Counsel has copies of the minutes of various sessions of the Enquiry

[R.I. June 17/38]

A G E N D A

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1938

Codfish Situation

Meetings

April 26
" 27

May 4
" 6
" 11
" 12

AGENDA

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May 9th, 1938.

requested to attend on Wednesday
May, 1938) at 2 p.m. in Committee
ty Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue,
the purpose of giving such informa-
ss regarding the marketing of codfish
special committee appointed by the
tigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 9th day of May, 1938.

Chairman of the Committee.

1938

Codfish Situation
Council March 28

18

1938

A G E N D A

Sent by Registered Mail

May 9th, 1938.

J. D. Lock, Esq.,
c/o London Fish Co.,
Ft. [illegible] FOR PERIOD O[illegible]
Ci[illegible]

Sewer Garden union - Grave

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36		8
38		8
39		8
41		8
42 A. Kendall		8
43 B.F. Cullen		8
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[illegible] the Committee.

Codfish Situation
Municipal Council March 28

15

A G E N D A

Sent by Registered Mail

May 9th, 1938.

J. D. Lock, Esq.,
c/o London Fish Co.,
Ft. Campbell Ave.,
City.

Dear Sir:

You are requested to attend on Wednesday next (the 11th day of May, 1938) at 2 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, at the City Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., for the purpose of giving such information as you may possess regarding the marketing of codfish in Vancouver, to the special committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 9th day of May, 1938.

Chairman of the Committee.

1938

Codfish Situation
City Council March 28

15

AGENDA

List on Names of Persons who are willing to give evidence before the Special Committee re Codfish, appointed by the Vancouver City Council on March 28, 1938.

R.W. Widdess	c/o Seaport Crown Fish Co. Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.	April 26 Testified
Albert Weinberg	c/o Egmont Fish Co. Ft. Campbell Ave.	
Victor Johncox	c/o Edmunds & Walker Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.	Testified April 26-
Geo. H. St.Denis	c/o Can. Fish & Cold Storage Co.Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.	
Syd. Humphreys	c/o London Fish Co. Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.	
→ Gus Athans	c/o Pacific Coast Fish & Cold Storage Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.	April 26th ✓
D. Straumford	c/o Reliance Fish Co. Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.	
R. Urquhart	c/o Urquhart & Mills Ft. Campbell Ave.	(Testified) April 26
Wm. Steiner	c/o Vancouver Shell Fish Co. Ft. Campbell Ave.	
Chris. Johnson	5492 E. Hastings St.	Testified April 26th

Fred Wescott.

1938

Codfish Situation
City Council March 28

18

AGENDA

April 28th, 1938.

J. S. Menchions, Esq.,
1550 - W. 15th Ave.,
City.

Dear Sir:

You are requested to attend on Friday next (the 29th day of April, 1938) at 2 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, at the City Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., for the purpose of giving such information as you may possess regarding the marketing of codfish in Vancouver, to the special committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 28th day of April, 1938.

Chairman of the Committee.

1938

Codfish Situation
City Council March 28

18

AGENDA

. DeGraves

Dear Sir:

You are requested to attend on Tuesday next (the 26th day of April, 1938) at 10 a.m. in Committee Room No. 1, at the City Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., for the purpose of giving such information as you may possess regarding the marketing of codfish in Vancouver, to the special committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 22nd day of April, 1938.

Harry J. DeGraves

Chairman of the Committee.

R. W. Widdess, Esq.,
c/o Seaport Crown Fish Co. Ltd.,
Foot of Campbell Avenue,
Vancouver, B. C.

sent to attached list
of people.
above date as registered mail.

1938

Codfish Situation
Council March 28

15

AGENDA

List on Names of Persons who are willing to give evidence before the Special Committee re Codfish, appointed by the Vancouver City Council on March 28, 1938:

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Albert Weinberg	c/o Egmont Fish Co. Ft. Campbell Ave.
Victor Johncox	c/o Edmunds & Walker Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.
Geo. H. St.Denis	c/o Can. Fish & Cold Storage Co.Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.
Syd. Humphreys	c/o London Fish Co. Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.
Gus Athans	c/o Pacific Coast Fish & Cold Storage Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.
D. Straumford	c/o Reliance Fish Co. Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.
R. Urquhart	c/o Urquhart & Mills Ft. Campbell Ave.
Wm. Steiner	c/o Vancouver Shell Fish Co. Ft. Campbell Ave.
Chris. Johnson	5492 E. Hastings St.

1938

Codfish Situation
Council March 28

15

AGENDA

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The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 22nd day of April, 1938.

Chairman of the Committee.

1938

Codfish Situation
Council March 28

15

A G E N D A

Sent by registered mail.

April 22nd, 1938.

Dear Sir:

You are requested to attend on Tuesday next (the 26th day of April, 1938) at 10 a.m. in Committee Room No. 1, at the City Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., for the purpose of giving such information as you may possess regarding the marketing of codfish in Vancouver, to the special committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 22nd day of April, 1938.

(Signed) Harry J. DeGraves
Chairman of the Committee

1938

Codfish Situation
Council March 28

15

1938

AGENDA

List on Names of Persons who are willing to give evidence before the Special Committee re Codfish, appointed by the Vancouver City Council on March 28, 1938.

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Albert Weinberg	c/o Egmont Fish Co. Ft. Campbell Ave.
Victor Johncox	c/o Edmunds & Walker Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.
Geo. H. St.Denis	c/o Can. Fish & Cold Storage Co. Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.
Syd. Humphreys	c/o London Fish Col Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.
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D. Straumford	c/o Reliance Fish Co. Ltd. Ft. Campbell Ave.
R. Urquhart	c/o Urquhart & Mills Ft. Campbell Ave.
Wm. Steiner	c/o Vancouver Shell Fish Co. Ft. Campbell Ave.
Chris. Johnson	5492 E. Hastings St.

Codfish Situation
Council March 28
15

1938

AGENDA

Sent by Registered Mail.

May 2nd, 1938.

Gus Athans, Esq.,
c/o Pacific Coast Fish & Cold Storage,
Ft. Campbell Avenue,
City.

Dear Sir:

You are requested to attend on Wednesday next (the 4th day of May, 1938) at 2 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, at the City Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., for the purpose of giving such information as you may possess regarding the marketing of codfish in Vancouver, to the special Committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 2nd day of May, 1938.

Chairman of the Committee.

Codfish Situation
Council March 28

15

1938

A G E N D A

Sent by Registered Mail.

May 2nd, 1938.

E. Swales, Esq.,
c/o Cumming Market,
City Market,
Pender & Main St., City.

Dear Sir:

You are requested to attend on Wednesday next (the 4th day of May, 1938) at 2 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, at the City Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., for the purpose of giving such information as you may possess regarding the marketing of codfish in Vancouver, to the special committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 2nd day of May, 1938.

Chairman of the Committee.

Codfish Situation
Council March 28
18

AGENDA

R. D. Bouchette, Esq.,
c/o Vancouver Daily Province,
Vancouver, B. C.

May 4th, 1938.

Dear Sir:

You are requested to attend on Thursday next (the 5th day of May, 1938) at 2 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, at the City Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., for the purpose of giving such information as you may possess regarding the marketing of codfish in Vancouver, to the special committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 4th day of May, 1938.

Chairman of the Committee.

1938

Codfish Situation
Council March 28

18

1938

Codfish Situation
Council March 28
18

AGENDA

May 4th, 1938.

I. Sugiyama, Esq.,
Manager,
Burrard Fish Co.,
Ft. Campbell Ave.,
City.

Dear Sir:

You are requested to attend on Thursday next (the 5th day of May, 1938) at 2 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, at the City Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., for the purpose of giving such information as you may possess regarding the marketing of codfish in Vancouver, to the special Committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 4th day of May, 1938.

Chairman of the Committee.

1938

AGENDA

May 4th, 1938.

J. K. Pope, Esq.,
c/o Seaport Crown Fish Co.,
Ft. Campbell Ave.,
City.

Dear Sir:

You are requested to attend on Thursday next (the 5th day of May, 1938) at 2 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, at the City Hall, 453 West Twelfth Avenue, Vancouver, B. C., for the purpose of giving such information as you may possess regarding the marketing of codfish in Vancouver, to the special committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the same.

The Committee's powers include an inquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the "Combines Investigation Act".

DATED this 4th day of May, 1938.

Chairman of the Committee.

did not get any fish.

Codfish Situation
Council March 28

18

1938

A G E N D A

(1) Have Clerk read the resolutions establishing the Committee, March 28th, April 11th. ✓

(2) Announce publicly that any persons having information to give to the Committee should communicate with the Clerk and leave their names and addresses.

(3) Read the definition of "combine" so far as it appears to be applicable to this inquiry:

" A combination of two or more persons having or designed to have the effect of

(c) fixing a common price or a resale price;

(d) enhancing the price or cost of an article;

(e) preventing or lessening competition in, or substantially controlling within any particular area production or sale".

(4) Call the first witness.

30

{ Check whether Burrard Fish Co get more than quota when there has been a shortage

Suguama

Burrard Fish Co }

...that where cost is too low the fisherman simply won't fish, there will be fewer fishermen, a smaller catch, smaller quantity and higher prices.

His Worship — The statement made was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

...h Situation
...il March 28
15

1938

ANSWERS COD PROBE CRITICS

De Graves Says Enquiry Isn't 'A Waste' Of Money.

An editorial in The Daily Province of Monday and a statement by T. G. Norris, K.C., that "this codfish probe is nothing but a terrific waste of time and the taxpayers' money," aroused Ald. H. J. De Graves, chairman of the probe, to a heated denial at a civic committee meeting on Monday.

"It is time charges like these of wasting public money should be stopped," he said indignantly.

Services of the corporation counsel, civic markets commissioner and a clerk for about two hours day, he declared, represent the total cost.

The alderman interrupted his public reading of the editorial to ask Corporation Counsel D. E. McTaggart if the civic probe had any legal basis. Mr. Norris, he recalled, had challenged its authority.

"Are we entitled to investigate these things in the first place?" he demanded.

"I would prefer to give the question further study before making a considered answer," replied Mr. McTaggart.

Mayor G. C. Miller and Ald. John Bennett protested the enquiry is "sub judice" and prepared to close the argument.

"Sub judice?" commented Ald. De Graves. "Then who does he think he is anyway?"

The discussion closed when the mayor congratulated Ald. De Graves on his forty-eighth birthday.

Vancouver Province
May 10 1938

won't fish, there will be fewer fishermen, a smaller catch, smaller quantity and higher prices.

His Worship The statement made was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

Codfish Situation
Council March 28
16

NORRIS FLAYS COD ENQUIRY

Prov. May 7

Lawyer Refuses to Recognize Probe's Legality.

T. G. Norris, K.C., counsel for Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association, threw the civic cod probe's sixth session into turmoil on Friday when he refused to recognize the committee's legal status or to permit a witness to give evidence, and challenged the investigators to do anything about it.

He climaxed a scathing criticism of the enquiry's efficiency by terming it "a terrific waste of time and money" and declared he felt he should claim witness fees for his clients.

Only a dislike of saddling taxpayers with the cost deters him from the latter course, Mr. Norris asserted.

"Quite frankly I don't recognize the status of this committee," exclaimed Mr. Norris bluntly.

"WASTING TIME."

"It has no power to carry on an enquiry to see if another enquiry should be held. We have gone ten days and got nowhere. There is no evidence of a combine. I think you are wasting your time—I told you that from the start."

Ald. De Graves drew the counsel's promise to co-operate in the investigation.

"Yes, in things relevant to the enquiry," retorted Mr. Norris. "But you've wasted day after day in irrelevant matters. If you're not interested in the taxpayers' money, I'm interested in that of my clients."

COUNTER-CHARGE.

Market Commissioner W. J. McGuigan interposed Mr. Norris was wasting everybody's time, a charge which the latter heatedly denied.

At this juncture R. D. Bouchette, newspaper reporter, who was waiting to give evidence, wearily added his voice to the general plea for speed.

"Would you mind making up your minds whether I'm to testify or not?" he asked. "You are wasting my time."

Mr. Norris flatly refused to allow the enquiry to call Ukichi Nishimoto, association secretary and sales manager, until Hideo Fukuyama, association bookkeeper, had testified. Mr. Norris explained Nishimoto does not speak English well and is not as conversant with the business as Fukuyama.

PROTECTED MARKET.

Questioned regarding 37,000 pounds of cod sent to Seattle by the association early in March, Fukuyama said the local market would have been broken if that amount of fish had been "flooded" in Vancouver.

He asserted the association is trying to get the best returns for fishermen and said conditions of the Seattle market largely influence exports there.

When Mr. McTaggart questioned Fukuyama regarding association finances Mr. Norris again objected.

"What right have you got to pry into their internal affairs?" he asked. "Workings of their finances has nothing to do with a combine."

If the enquiry wishes to hear the evidence of the association president, who is in Victoria, it will have to pay his travelling expenses, Mr. Norris warned.

Vancouver Daily Province - May 7, 1938

Codfish Situation
Administered by Council March 28
1938

...higher prices.

His Worship — The statement made was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

1938

WORDY BATTLE AT COD ENQUIRY

May 6 - Prov

De Graves and Norris Engage in Clash Over Witness.

More wordy warfare between Ald. H. J. De Graves, chairman, and T. G. Norris, K.C., counsel for Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association, featured the fifth session of the civic codfish enquiry on Thursday. The pair also clashed at Wednesday's hearing.

"I'll stop your dirty nasty insinuations," cried Ald. De Graves, when the counsel told him he must not "bully" William Forsyth, a youthful witness whose negotiations with association representatives on March 30 were subject of much newspaper publicity.

"Oh, no, you won't," retorted Mr. Norris. "And as long as you are conducting this enquiry, you are not supposed to go running around." The latter remark was in reference to a hurried conference Ald. De Graves held with C. G. Athans, who was seated in the audience.

Ald. De Graves sprang to his feet.

"I'm trying not to have any dirt in this enquiry," he warned.

IMPROPER ACTION.

Mr. Norris replied it was quite improper for the chairman to talk to Mr. Athans. He further advised Ald. De Graves he should try to forget what he had heard in his investigations prior to the probe.

"I am trying to," said Ald. De Graves.

Forsyth, who was employed by Pacific Coast Fish and Cold Storage Co. until recently, said he believed March 30 was the day on which he attempted to purchase 500 pounds of fish from the association, and was only able to buy 150 pounds. He said he later was able to get "more" later in the day.

Mr. Norris asserted association records show Forsyth received a total of 465 pounds on March 30.

STEADIED MARKET.

Belief that the association has steadied the cod market and benefitted wholesalers without making any difference to consumers, was expressed by Mr. Athans, manager of Pacific Coast Fish and Cold Storage Co., who failed to put in a previous appearance despite two requests to attend.

He could offer no knowledge of any discrimination, but voiced belief more cod might be sold here if prices were lower. He did not give any particulars in this connection.

Vancouver Daily Province - May 6, 1938

Codfish Situation
Administered by Council March 28

...[illegible] prices.

His Worship The statement made was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

1938

Vancouver Daily Province

May 4, 1938

CHARGE RACIAL BIAS AT PROBE

T. G. Norris Criticizes De Graves at Cod Price Enquiry.

Charging Ald. H. J. De Graves, chairman, was endeavoring to introduce racial prejudices in an effort to gain publicity, T. G. Norris, K.C., counsel for Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association, threatened to withdraw his witnesses from the civic codfish enquiry on Wednesday afternoon.

"This is not a racial enquiry," exploded Mr. Norris when Ald. De Graves, examining G. L. Stock, Dominion fisheries inspector, enquired why the association membership list shows Japanese at the head of each cod fishing district.

"This is done for consumption of the newspapers. There is all this talk of so many white men and so many Japanese. It doesn't matter if they are white or pink or green. They're all human beings."

DE GRAVES ANNOYED.

"Do I, the chairman, have to sit here and be continually insulted?" expostulated Ald. De Graves.

Oil was poured on the disturbance by Corporation Counsel D. E. McTaggart, who contended Mr. Norris should not take exception to the remarks as far as they had gone and that he was "squawking before he is hurt."

Racial aspects of the association were not discussed further, however.

Operations of the fishermen's association were supported by Mr. Stock.

PRICES STABILIZED.

He said he had followed the organization's fortunes since 1933 and is of the opinion it has stabilized cod prices and given consumers the fish in a fresh state.

"Its not more than twenty-four hours from the time it is caught until it is given to wholesalers," he commented. "I call that fresh."

He asserted he can not see how it would be possible to auction cod catches because of the small amounts and the different wharves at which the fish are landed in Vancouver.

If the city could ararnge to have all cod brought to one or two docks it might be done, he observed.

Questioned regarding grey cod Mr. Stock said most of it is sold by retailers as "baby cod." He said it is the nearest approach to true cod on the Pacific Coast.

USE OF "LIVE BOXES."

Questioned by Ald. De Graves regarding the possibility "live boxes" are used to regulate the supply of cod to the market, Mr. Stock said this could be done but that the fish deteriorates if kept in boxes.

He said that to his knowledge the boxes are not employed to regulate the market supply and asserted their use is confined to fishing district No. 3.

The enquiry resumed this afternoon and is expected to close late today.

Codfish Situation
Committee Meeting March 28

...ther prices.

His Worship — The statement made was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

COD EVIDENCE CONTRADICTED

Witness Charges Weekly Battle Over Price.

A picture of amicable price understandings between Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association and Wholesale Fish Dealers' Association, painted by previous witnesses before the civic cod enquiry, was ripped to ribbons on Friday.

Theodore Burnett, chairman of the Fish Handlers' Union and a fish salesman, bluntly told the probe that instead of price fixing in the cod market there is practically a price war.

He added that when the "battle" is over it is found the wholesalers, not the Fishermen's Association, have set the price.

"I've never heard of wholesalers and the association setting prices every week," snorted Mr. Burnett. "They're battling all the time. I tell you it's a fight."

Corporation Counsel D. E. McTaggart protested this was contrary to all evidence previously heard by the enquiry.

"ALWAYS FIGHTING."

"Well, they're always fighting among themselves," resumed Mr. Burnett. "It's an open market. No two wholesalers have the same price.

"There is no board and everyone makes the best deal he can. Prices change every day in the week. The best man wins as far as price is concerned. Both consumers and producers are exploited."

Later witness declared wholesale fish dealers are fixing the price.

"That seems to settle the price-fixing statement," commented Mr. McTaggart.

DENIED EVIDENCE.

Mr. Burnett emphatically denied previous evidence that the wholesalers are trying to help the fishermen.

He declared that as a result of lack of wholesalers' co-operation fishermen were forced to dump 800 pounds of a 400-pound catch of herring into the Inlet on April 22.

Both fishermen and consumers would get a better deal if a fishing exchange were established, he claimed.

Witness persisted the Fishermen's Association sent 67,000 pounds of cod to Seattle in the second week in March despite Mr. Norris' assertion that only 37,000 pounds were shipped.

Fred Westcott, secretary of the Wholesalers' Association and Seaport Crown Fish Co., maintained at no time in his experience has codfish been shipped to Seattle when there is a scarcity here.

He denied charges of secret rebates and stated a half-cent refund, granted on a single occasion early last autumn, was not a rebate but a general discount. Prices have never been changed after invoices are made out, he added.

1938

Codfish Situation March 28

...her prices.

His Worship — The statement made was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

DEALER ADMITS PRICE REBATE

Cod Enquiry Hears Conflicting Evidence On Refunds.

A mystery which developed in the civic cod fish probe on Wednesday when one wholesale fish dealer told of a ½-cent per pound rebate from Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association and two others denied all knowledge of it, will be satisfactorily explained when the enquiry reconvenes on Friday afternoon, according to T. G. Norris, K.C., counsel for the association.

Sydney Humphreys, manager of London Fish Co. Ltd., recalled to the stand on Wednesday, said he received a $16 rebate from the association on September 7, 1937.

He declared he believes all city fish wholesalers were given the refund, which was made on only one occasion. There was no secret about it, Humphreys testified.

DENIED KNOWLEDGE.

Previously Robert Urquhart, proprietor of Mills & Urquhart, fish dealers, and Victor F. Johncox, president of the Wholesale Fish Association and Vancouver manager of the firm of Edmunds & Walker Ltd., both asserted they knew of no rebates.

In view of the conflicting evidence the committee conducting the enquiry will question H. Fukuyama, secretary of the Fishermen's Association, on the rebates.

In a statement after the enquiry had adjourned, Mr. Norris said the situation can be easily explained.

During the week in which Humphreys received a rebate there was a dispute between fishermen and wholesalers regarding the price which should be set for the week in view of the quantity available, he asserts.

REDUCTION MADE.

Eventually, according to Mr. Norris, a price was agreed on with the understanding it would be subject to a reduction at the end of the week if a larger amount of fish than anticipated was caught. Such was the case and the rebate was made accordingly.

The association lawyer believes Mr. Johncox and Mr. Urquhart disclaimed knowledge of any rebate because of the "sinister atmosphere" created by charges made by Chris Johnson, local fish dealer.

"They probably looked on the refund as an ordinary piece of business," Mr. Norris conjectures.

Extreme frankness marked Mr. Humphreys' testimony regarding the refund he received from the association.

Pressed by Ald. H. J. De Graves, chairman, he admitted the retailer would have paid ½ cent per pound less if the refund had been made at the beginning instead of the end of the week.

ADMITS UNFAIRNESS.

"It is really quite unfair to Johnson in a way," the witness remarked. "I can't say it was fair of me not to give it to him for we have an agreement, but he didn't ask for it." He was referring to Chris Johnson, local fish dealer, whose charges led to the enquiry.

Questioned further, Mr. Humphreys asserted he made no enquiries concerning the rebate.

1938

Codfish Situation

March 28

...her prices.

His Worship The statement made was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

1938

ARTIFICIAL COD PRICE IS DENIED

Wholesale Dealers Say Conditions Are Satisfactory.

Charges that Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association endeavors to maintain an "artificial price" for cod in Vancouver, were not supported by two wholesale fish dealers who gave evidence before the civic cod fish enquiry on Tuesday afternoon.

Both Robert W. Widdess, president of Seaport Crown Fish Co. Ltd., and Sydney Humphreys, manager of London Fish Co. Ltd, expressed themeselves satisfied with association activities.

Mr. Humphreys testified, however, that he underwent a twenty-four-hour boycott from the association two years ago when he persisted in purchasing fish from an independent.

ALWAYS SUFFICIENT.

He said when he told association representatives "if they wanted trouble they could get it," the difference was almost immediately explained away as a "mistake."

"I think it was a little too much enthusiasm on behalf of the association," smiled the witness.

He explained disbelief that "live boxes" are ever used to create an artificial shortage, and contended there is always sufficient cod in Vancouver to satisfy the market.

"Conditions really set the price" said Mr. Widdess. "Weather, fishing conditions, tides and market fluctuations are among the many factors which determine price.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

"It has been proven over and over again that the law of supply and demand sets the price. There is no 'artificial' figure here."

Mr. Humphreys declared the association ships cod to Seattle to keep up the price level but such shipments are only made after the local market has been satisfied.

Both witnesses expressed belief that the association operates more for benefit of the fishermen than consumers.

"The association has helped fishermen and it can't help consumers at the same time," Mr. Humphreys asserted. "To the extent it benefits fishermen it must harm consumers. It's more important the fishermen get more than householders pay less."

PRICES HIGHER.

He explained the fishermen are paid on an average 2.86 cents per pound, a higher price than before inauguration of the association. If more cod were marketed here the price would be lower and the fishermen would get less, he said.

Mr. Widdess told the enquiry Vancouver Wholesale Fish Dealers' Association, of which he is a member, collaborates with the fishermen's association in setting the price each week. If there is any change, twenty-four hours' notice is given all wholesalers, he declared.

It is the nature of the business to stabilize prices, the witness continued. If the market opened at 7 cents a pound and then dropped to 3 cents a few hours later to accommodate a surplus the price structure would be "badly upste," he observed.

Questioned regarding the 80,000 pounds of cod which Chris. Johnson, city fish dealer, asserts were "dumped" in Seattle in the second week in March, the witness said there would not be many weeks with a surplus of that size, and if such an amount were placed on the market here it would have little chance of sale at any price.

When pressed on the alleged boycotting, Mr. Humphreys said the firm of Urquhart & Mills had been apparently refused by the association, but that he knows of no other companies which have been similarly penalized.

He said he is often given an opportunity to buy a share of the association's "cheap cod," the product which is sold in Seattle at 3½ cents when there is no local market for it.

The witness said the association does specify such fish must not be sold in Canada but the arrangement is largely by word of mouth.

"We don't want to break the market here," he explained.

Asked if he knew of any instances in which cod was shipped to Seattle when there was a shortage in Vancouver, Mr. Humphreys said this March "a little too much was sent away."

Cod fish Situation March 28

--ther prices.

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1938

COD MEN GAVE SECRET REBATE

—CHRIS JOHNSON.

Says Association Used Boycott Threat To Organize.

Despite sharp cross-examination by T. G. Norris, K.C., representing Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association, Chris Johnson, city fish dealer, persisted before the civic cod fish enquiry today that:

1—The association was organized through the threat of boycott of non-members.

2—On at least one occasion it was unfair to retailers by giving wholesalers a secret rebate of ½-cent per pound.

3—It completely dominates the ling cod industry here to the extent of forbidding sale of cod in Vancouver or Canada when it has been sold to wholesalers for shipment to Seattle.

The hearing, which continued this afternoon, was marked by frequent clashes between the witness and Mr. Norris.

PRESSED FOR DETAILS.

When pressed by Mr. Norris for details of the alleged boycotting, Mr. Johnson said it occurred after the association was first organized, a date set by Ald. H. J. DeGraves, chairman, at June 24, 1936.

Asked for further particulars, the witness declared he was not sure of the date but that on one occasion the London Fish Company was boycotted by the association. He said he thought it occurred last year, and asserted

(Continued on Page 2.)
See COD PROBE.

COD PROBE

(Continued from Page 1.)

one of the company's foremen could prove it.

"This witness apparently doesn't know anything about it," exclaimed Mr. Norris. "It is all hearsay."

Mr. Johnson said he "has a poor memory but I am telling the truth," when qeustioned on what day the association was supposed to have shipped 80,000 pounds of cod to Seattle at 2c a pound when the wholesale price was 6 to 7 cents.

"DOMINATION."

Mr. Norris asserted there was no cod shipped out of the city during the first week of the cod season, which begins in March. But in the second week, 37,000 pounds went out.

When a dealer purchases cod from the association for shipment to Seattle he can under no circumstances sell one pound of it in Vancouver or Canada, Mr. Johnson declared.

"I call it domination," he cried.

He testified that some time this year the association secretly gave all wholesalers a ½c per pound rebate at the end of the week's oepration.

"I, and a lot more like me, was robbed," the witness complained.

OBLIGED TO JOIN.

Johnson charged when the association was organized, dealers who bought from independent fishermen were boycotted by the association which refused to sell fish to them. Independent fishermen were thus obliged to join the organization when they found they had no other way to dispose of their fish, he declared.

When Mr. Norris objected to the testimony, Johnson said he had "seen it occur."

The witness, who occupied the stand during the entire morning session, suggested the association could rectify the situation by regularly meeting with wholesalers, retailers and possibly a consumers' representative.

He urged Vancouver consumers should be given the benefit of any surplus cod instead of having the produce shipped to Seattle. He urged the consumption of fish here could be increased if the people could afford to buy it.

"LOUSY LIVING."

"We have a lousy scale of living in Vancouver," he said. "Our people cann ot afford to buy our fresh fish and have to eat cheap canned goods instead."

The three men running the association "don't know their business in operating in the best interest of fishermen," the witness continued.

When pressed by Mr. Norris, Johnson said the association has been a benefit to fishermen at times and to the industry. He said he is not sure that he could devise a better method of marketing fish but said he might do it.

Johnson, who was sworn as a witiness by Mayor George C. Miller, said the association handles about 90 per cent. of the ling cod marketed in Vancouver.

There are several witnesses scheduled to appear before the hearing, which is expected to last several days.

Codfish Situation March 28

The statement made was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

Codfish Marketing Enquiry This Week

The civic enquiry into codfish marketing conditions in Vancouver will probably open in the City Hall on Wednesday or Thursday.

The City Council on Monday passed a resolution empowering Ald. H. J. De Graves and Market Commissioner W. J. McGuigan to call witnesses before them in an endeavor to ascertain if there is sufficient evidence to warrant the council applying for a probe under the Combines Investigation Act.

It is alleged a Japanese-controlled cod fishermen's association is setting an artificial price for cod in Vancouver and are "unloading" the surplus in Seattle.

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1938

Codfish Situation March 28

...was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

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THE DAILY PROVINCE, VANCOUVER, BRITISH

City to Continue Its Codfish Probe — Resignation Refused

Ald. DeGraves Ordered to Carry On— Public Hearing May Be Heard Soon.

THE City Council's enquiry into codfish marketing condi- tions in Vancouver aid tracked by the resignation of he role of investigator — will

c markets committee on Mon- e Graves' withdrawal from the carry on a "preliminary en- apanese-controlled Cod Fisher- g" fish in Seattle to maintain

number of whites who can take up cod fishing, but Japanese are limited to 153 in the industry.

2. That after a cod fisherman pays his association dues and operating expense he has only about $44 a month over the year period to maintain himself and his family.

3. That it is idle to say Vancouver's poor would get the product at lower prices if "dumping" were stopped. If prices dropped too low cod fishermen would not bother to go out and the resultant scarcity would mean much higher prices.

JAPANESE CO-OPERATE.

4. Under provincial regulations fish can not be kept in "live boxes" to maintain the market level. "Live boxes" are only permitted on the fishing grounds or in transit.

5. That in the last ten-month cod fishing season the association sold 2,148,706 pounds of fish in Vancouver and put 168,439 pounds in storage. In Seattle 235,258 pounds were sold.

"This association has been attacked on a basis of race," Mr. Norris declared in summing up his arguments.

"Not as far as I'm concerned," flashed Ald. De Graves.

Mr. Templeton declared he has been a member of the association ten years and that the Japanese have "co-operated 100 per cent."

He denied reports that white members of the association are not actually fishermen and are only engaged in transporting the fish.

Codfish Situation March 28

...on the outside did ...not get any fish.

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Aldermen, meeting in civic markets committee on Monday, refused to accept Ald. De Graves' withdrawal from the probe and empowered him to carry on a "preliminary enquiry" into charges that a Japanese-controlled Cod Fishermen's Association is "dumping" fish in Seattle to maintain an artificial price here.

The council resolution provided that a member of the civic legal department will be available if needed in the investigation.

FEDERAL ENQUIRY.

Ald. De Graves is not sure what procedure he will follow, but believes he will call sessions in the City Hall to hear evidence from members of the industry. He intimated it may be necessary to go to Seattle to obtain evidence.

Should probe findings warrant it, Ald. H. D. Wilson intends to move an appeal to the Federal Government for an enquiry under the Combines Investigation Act.

It will be impossible to start the probe until market committee minutes are formally adopted by the City Council next Monday, but in the meantime Ald. De Graves intends to confer with Corporation Counsel D. E. Mctaggart regarding the best means of procedure.

"LOT OF HOOEY."

Charges made before the council recently by Chris Johnson, city fish dealer, were challenged before the committee on Monday, by T. G. Norris, K.C., counsel for Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association, and James Templeton of Quathiaski Cove, vice-president of the organization.

"It's a lot of hooey," exclaimed Mr. Templeton tersely when Ald. H. D. Wilson questioned him regarding alleged discrimination against certain wholesalers by the fishermen's association.

Mr. Norris asserted the association will welcome the widest investigation of its methods and contended the latter have had nothing but a beneficial effect as far as the industry and consumers are concerned. He indicated the association will file its March returns before the investigating committee.

1938

Codfish Situation

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ANGRY EXCHANGES.

He denied the association constitutes a combine under meaning of the Combines Investigation Act or that Japanese are "crowding out" white members of the industry. He agreed, however, that the association finds it necessary to sell fish in Seattle to maintain the local price structure which, if broken, would ultimately mean a higher price in Vancouver.

There were several angry verbal exchanges as Ald. John Bennett expressed distaste at the fact the council is being involved in so many enquiries regarding public commodities.

"We're getting into deep water," he exclaimed. "We're dealing with the price of milk, bread and fish—we're developing into a sort of roving commission into all of these things."

Alderman De Graves objected.

"I don't want the job any more than you do," he cried. "Anyway, you fall all over yourselves when an M.P. urges an enquiry into bread prices."

DEFENDS ASSOCIATION.

In defending membership and operations of the association, Mr. Norris declared:

1. Of the association's 181

His Worship

...I submit that the operations
...tion have been of benefit to the
... trade, and to the consumer and have
... factor in developing the cod fishing
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... in labour circles as collective bar-
...ness circles it is recognized by the
...hich prevents price cutting, section
...by the Privy Council.

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1938

Codfish Situation
Submitted by Council March 28

De Graves Quits Local Fish Probe In Council Battle

Aldermen Refused to Endorse Seattle Trip; Had Planned to Compare Prices of Cod In Investigating Entire Industry.

OFFERED TO PAY HIS OWN EXPENSES

ALD. H. J. De Graves today sent in his resignation as chairman of the civic committee probing cod fish marketing here as the result of a stormy private meeting of the City Council.

In a statement after the meeting, Ald. De Graves declared he is resigning as a protest against the action of the council in refusing to support him in a move for a "thorough enquiry" into the cod-marketing situation in Vancouver.

Ald. De Graves asserts that he wished to be assisted by the legal department in a trip which he proposed to make to Seattle to check fish prices there in comparison with Vancouver figures.

C. Johnson, fish dealer, recently charged B. C. fish are dumped in Seattle to maintain prices here.

OFFERED TO PAY.

Ald. De Graves offered to pay his expenses on the Seattle trip or on visits to any other point where he believed he could obtain information he required.

When the majority of his colleagues failed to act on his motion, he announced his intention to resign.

"My investigations into cod marketing in Vancouver during the past few days led me to believe they warranted a thorough enquiry by the city to substantiate the evidence which I had obtained," he explained after the meeting.

"I asked assistance of a member of the legal department, and failed to get any support. In the light of previous enquiries conducted by the city, I wanted to make sure of my facts before recommending a costly enquiry by the council."

NO FURTHER ACTION.

Ald. De Graves now intimates he intends to take no further action in the proposed investigation.

A move to petition the government for a probe in the matter under the Combines Investigation Act was not put to a vote at the meeting.

"If Ald. De Graves wishes to resign, it's his own business," Mayor Miller commented when informed of the alderman's intention to withdraw from the chairmanship of the committee.

WAY STILL OPEN.

The mayor added, however, that the pending resignation would not stop the City Council from asking the Dominion Government to enquire into the cod situation here under the Combines Investigation Act, if, at its next meeting, it feels sufficient evidence is forthcoming.

The mayor pointed out that Ottawa has set up machinery for such investigation, and that the council is hardly warranted in pursuing an enquiry of its own.

Corporation Counsel D. E. McTaggart informed the council it had no authority under the City Charter to make the investigation proposed by Ald. De Graves.

TO PROBE CITY COD SITUATION

Fish Dealer Claims Price-controlling By Japanese.

Charges of Chris Johnson, fish dealer, 5492 East Hastings, that a Japanese-controlled Cod Fishermen's Association is maintaining an excessive price for cod and unloading its products in Seattle at half the price, will be investigated by the civic markets committee and Market Commissioner W. J. McGuigan.

In a letter to the City Council on Monday, Mr. Johnson alleged that in the second week in March the association sold cod at 6 and 7 cents per pound to local wholesalers and at the same time disposed of 80,000 pounds to Seattle dealers at 3½ cents. During the same week Vancouver cod fishermen were paid $2.86 per 100 pounds, the letter claimed.

CITY IS LOWEST.

In urging an arrangement by which the consumer would obtain cod at a much lower price without jeopardizing the fisherman's profit, Mr. Johnson declared Vancouver has the lowest per capita consumption of fish of any city in the Dominion.

Ald. H. D. Wilson, whose move to investigate the situation was unanimously accepted by aldermen, asserted he has heard reports that an "artificial price, apparently based on scarcity," is being maintained in the local cod market.

CLAIMS GLUT HERE.

The wholesale price of cod in Vancouver is 8 cents per pound. Wholesalers pay 6 cents a pound to the association, according to members of the trade. Before being marketed the fish passes through the hands of fishermen, the association, wholesalers and retailers, they assert.

A spokesman for the association, when queried on Mr. Johnson's charges, asserted the association was forced to sell in Seattle because there was a glut on the market.

He declared the association has been the means of keeping the price of cod from mounting too high and that it has set a much better procedure of marketing than formerly prevailed.

The association is not controlled by Japanese, he added, although there are three Japanese on its five-man executive. Association membership is said to be equally divided between whites and Japanese.

Codfish Situation

April 4, 1938 MARKETS, EXHIBITION, INDUSTRIES AND TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RE: COD FISHING INDUSTRY

During the discussion of questions relative to the Cod Fishing Industry the Chair was vacated by Alderman DeGraves, and taken by His Worship the Mayor.

It was regularly moved that the delegation, being Mr. T.G.Norris, representing the Canadian Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association, be heard.

Mr. Norris — The Association consists of 108 Japanese and 73 White men or Indians.

I understand it is suggested there is a combine, and I understand it is suggested that through the medium of this Association the Japanese has crowded out the White man in the cod fishing industry.

On the basis of rights the Council has no jurisdiction On the basis of injury to the Public the Council then, possibly is interested.

This Committee is only interested in whether the price is fair. A price of 5¢ a pound has been the average. This Association together with the wholesalers' Association have fixed the price at which the Association will sell to wholesalers, at 5¢. The average catch of the fisherman is 500 pounds, the average weekly catch. That is a weekly return of $25.00 a week, or $100.00 a month. That is the gross return that the fisherman gets. He pays 20% to his carrier, 5% to his Association; the blance to the fisherman of $75.00, from which he pays the cost of his gasoline $17.10 a month. He pays approximately $5.00 a month for repairs, leaving a balance of $52.80 for 10 months; on the basis of 12 months it gives the fisherman $44.00 a month.

On the basis of that return I suggest there is no undue price - infair price - and I submit that the operations of this Association have been of benefit to the producer, to the trade, and to the consumer and have been a material factor in developing the cod fishing industry. Whatever has been done by this Association, an association under the Societies Act, has been to obtain a stable market and a living wage for the producer. I suggest they have simply followed the principle known in labour circles as collective bargaining, in business circles it is recognized by the Criminal Code, which prevents price cutting, section 498 etc. upheld by the Privy Council.

$44.00 on a basis of 5¢ average throughout the year. 3¢ would leave less that $30.00 a month to the fisherman. I have not taken into account the, about a week a month which the fisherman must spend getting bait, or idle at home on account of the weather. If the fisherman worked every week his return would be $44.00. There is a surplus of cod. It is idle to say "Sell the poor man cod at an unremunerative price." It is not of advantage to the consumer, it has worked out that where cost is too low the fisherman simply won't fish, there will be fewer fishermen, a smaller catch, smaller quantity and higher prices.

His Worship — The statement made was that the man on the outside did did not get any fish.

1938

Codfish Situation
referred by Council March 28

15

Re: Cod Fishing (Cont'd)

Mr. Norris — There is nothing to prevent a licensed white man going out and catching cod fish. The Japanese in this Association are all British subjects. The licenses are limited in respect to Japanese to 153. There is a further limitation; the Japanese may not fish outside the district for which the license is granted. The white man may fish anywhere. There is no restriction on the number of white fishermen and the only reason that there are not more white fishermen is that the price is too low.

Alderman Corey — Is it true that you sold cod in Seattle cheaper then here?

Mr. Norris — That is true. There is nothing that can be done with the cod. Cod is a very perishable fish; unless it is sold here, if it is sold at cut prices then the market is broken and the producer gets less than $44.00 a month. If the price is reduced for one day there is a follow through to the next day or two or three days and the price will not come up. It is not possible to control the quantity. The boats come in from different fishing grounds and it depends on whether and if the fish are biting.

Ald. Wilson — Do the fish come directly to the market?

Mr. Norris — Under the Provincial regulations fish may not be kept in 'Live Boxes' except on the fishing grounds or in transit. They are brought in when there is a load to bring in. They are not kept in live boxes for the sake of holding up the market.

Ald. Corey. — If there was a surplus of fish to be disposed of at a lower price it would seem to me that the market where you ordinarily sell your product should be the one to get the advantage of it.

Mr. Norris — You don't know that you have got your surplus. You have it one day and not the other.

Ald. Crone — If you have 10,000 pounds surplus this morning you could not sell it?

Mr. Norris — You could not sell it.

Ald. Gutteridge — The people are unaware that there is a surplus?

Mr. Norris — It is true that in connection with fruit that in the years of low prices there is an appreciable demand for the products below a certain level. Cod fish on this basis is a low price fish. Now if it could be shown that 6% a pound is an unreasonable price there is something for you to answer.
All that is happening with regard to fish has happened with regard to lumber, fruit and other products.

1938

Cod fish Situation
referred by Council March 28

15

ORIGINAL ORDER
Vancouver City Archives

Re: Cod Fishing (Cont'd)

Mr. Norris — When you have filled your domestic market then you have to find a market for the rest. In the case of fruit it is exported to England.

His Worship — But Mr. Norris how does the price of cod fish compare with other fish? to the consumer?

Mr. Norris — It will come at the market, 8 to 10 cents or perhaps higher.

His Worship — What we are interested in is that our citizens are not being unduly charged. If the prices are fair everybody is satisfied. The statement was made that there was an effort made to create an artificial market here.

Mr. Norris — The question is, what is an undue price, when is the price too high. I submit the test is the fisherman must get his cost of production. You cannot sell below the cost of production.

Now I may say that I am instructed that this Association welcomes the widest investigations. We are willing to facilitate any investigations and he invites any questions. Mr. Chairman, the Vice-President is a white man, the president a Japanese. If you want the president I will get an interpreter.

Ald. Cornett — The statement was made that the price was going to be held up while the people of Seattle got the product at so much less. I felt that matter was that this information could not be got. If the Association is willing to come forward and give all information, I think this very fair.

Mr. Norris — I have certain data here which I would like to file with you. I would ask that Mr. Templeton, the Vice-President be heard.

His Worship — How much have you sold in Seattle during the year?

Mr. Norris — For the year and including four weeks in March of this year the total sale in Vancouver 2,148,706 pounds, put into storage 160,439 pounds and in Seattle we sold 235,258 pounds.

Ald. Corey — I would suggest that a part of that outline of the letter has been admitted by Mr. Norris; he says his fish have been sold in Seattle at a lower price than here.

Mr. Norris/
It is proper business. We are trying to extend our export market for Our export markets are our chief markets.

Ald. Bennett — How are the fish brought down.

Mr. Norris — They are brought down in tanks. In the Inlet there is a regulation which says that they may be kept only at the fishing grounds or in transit(Live Boxes)

Ald. DeGraves — I want to make a statement here and now and it is only in fairness to Mr. Johnson, whether it is true or not does not enter into the question at the present moment. Mr. Norris made the statement about race prejudice and I assure you that if such a situation existed and could be proved, that it is alleged exists, I would certainly be in the same position that I am today. This question of cod fishing is not a race question.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ORIGINAL ORDER Vancouver City Archives

1938

Codfish Situation
referred by Council March 28

Re: Cod fishing (Cont'd)

Mr. Norris — It seems to me that the man who should be investigated is Mr. Johnson. I have shown this Committee that the producer is not getting an undue price. If Aldermen DeGraves ever suggests that $44.00 is high-----

Ald. DeGraves — This Association has been attacked on a basis of rights

Mr. Norris — Not by me.

Ald. Gutteridge — Have you ever refused to sell fish in Vancouver and then taken it down to Seattle and sold it?

Mr. Norris — That would depend on the price.

Question of Licenses:- There is nothing to prevent a white man from going out and fishing and there is everything to prevent a Japanese, and the reason that the white men are not fishing is that the price is too low. The suggestion is made that the Japanese cut prices, in that respect they have endeavoured to maintain the price to get a living wage for the producer.

Mr. Templeton, Vice-President of the Canadian Consolidated Cod Fishermens' Association, addressed the Committee.

Mr. Templeton — I have been a member ever since it started, having followed cod fishing for 10 years. Anything we ask for the Japanese have given to us. I would like to correct a statement. Ou r fish are killed on the fishing grounds and put on ice.

His Worship — What is the truth to the story that this Association has 108 Japanese and 73 White men, and that the majority of the white men are not fishermen at all?

Mr. Templeton — The 73 fishermen have nothing to do with bring the fish in. the 73 are bona fide fishermen. I would like to state that I refused to sell fish at 1¢ a pound. Since we started we have not been below 2¢ a pound. One spring we went to 2¢. Last Spring our average was 3.9¢. For that our men do other fishing. The Japanese cannot do that. He must stick at the trade his license calls for. White fishermen can make more at other kinds of fishing. I would like to know why this wasn't brought up before.

Mr. Norris — I have the returns on the price and I will file them.

Mr. Templeton — Our office staff are all Japanese. We find out that the Japanese give us best satisfaction. We have one man who can take Japanese and English and can talk to anyone. We can get an official interpreter when we want one.

Ald. Wilson — One thing was discrimination. I understand that certain dealers got all the fish they want and others cannot, and it is with that thing the investigation is concerned.

Mr. Templeton — I happen to know personally one of the men. The press report about 1000 pounds to one wholesaler is a bunch of hooey. There is a whole lot of misstatement going on here.

Mr. Norris concluded with the remarks, in reference to the possibility of an investigation, that every opportunity be given to his clients to give evidence at a public hearing, and requested that evidence be not taken by affidavit, but that the witness should appear and submit to cross-examination.

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1938 Codfish Situation 18 adjourned by Council March 28

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

re

, CODFISH SITUATION

From Council Minutes,
March 28th, 1938

DO NOT WRITE ABOUT MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT IN THE SAME LETTER

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SUPERVISOR

WINCH BUILDING,

VANCOUVER, B.C., April 30, 1938

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEF SUPERVISOR

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

FILE No 1-5-1

RECEIVED
BY CITY CLERK
MAY - 2 1938
REFERRED TO
Mr Warden

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, suggesting that I attend an enquiry in connection with the marketing of cod fish in Vancouver.

As you are aware, any such request should come through the Chief Supervisor of Fisheries, who will issue any necessary instructions to myself.

Yours truly,

J. S. Menchions.

J. S. Menchions.

The Chairman,
Cod Fish Enquiry,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B. C.

PLEASE [illegible]
ORIGINAL ORDER
Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation
Filed by Council March 28

16

1938

1938

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

re

CODFISH SITUATION

From Council Minutes,
March 28th, 1938

MacNeill, Norris & Pratt
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

A. H. MACNEILL, K.C. T. G. NORRIS, K.C.
F. D. PRATT

CABLE ADDRESS "MACMOR"
VANCOUVER, CANADA
TELEPHONE: TRINITY 2407

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA BUILDING
602 HASTINGS ST., WEST

VANCOUVER, B.C.

27th April, 1938.

RECEIVED
BY CITY CLERK
APR 28 1938
REFERRED TO
Spl Cmttee.

City Clerk,
Vancouver,
B. C.

Dear Sir:-

re: Codfish Enquiry.

I would be glad if you would ask the Chairman of the Enquiry if he will have summonsed for the Hearing on Friday, Mr. J. S. Menchions, 1550 W. 15th. Ave., Vancouver, whom I think can give evidence in connection with live boxes. I think that it is important that he be asked to attend.

Yours faithfully,

TGN:M

PLEASE RETURN
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Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation
appointed by Council March 28
15

1938

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

re

CODFISH SITUATION

From Council Minutes,
March 28th, 1938

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602 HASTINGS ST., WEST

VANCOUVER, B.C.

13th. April, 1938.

RECEIVED
BY CITY CLERK
APR 14 1938 Ent.
REFERRED TO
Ap'l Cmttee.

The City Clerk,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

re: Cod Fish Enquiry.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 12th. and thank you for your courtesy in this matter.

Re recommendation of Market Cmttee. ap'l 4

Yours faithfully,

T. G. Norris

TGN:M

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16
Codfish Situation
referred by Council March 28

1938

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

re

, CODFISH SITUATION

From Council Minutes,
March 28th, 1938

COD FISH ENQUIRY

Meeting to be held April 26, 1938 at 10 A.M.

A G E N D A

(1) Have Clerk read the resolutions establishing the Committee, March 28th, April 11th.

(2) Announce publicly that any persons having information to give to the Committee should communicate with the Clerk and leave their names and addresses.

(3) Call the first witness.

PLEASE RETURN
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Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation
Read by Council March 28

16

1938

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

re

, CODFISH SITUATION

From Council Minutes,
March 28th, 1938

Re Mr. Chris. Johnson: Cod Fish Situation

A meeting of the Canadian Fisheries Association, Vancouver Branch, was held on April 6th 1932, President Mr. Humphreys in the chair.

Minutes of previous meeting were adopted as read.

Correspondence in connection with the national advertising campaign was read by the Secretary, and ordered filed.

Box charges, return C.O.D's and collect telegrams. Moved Mr. St.Denis, seconded Mr. Coppin that this question be shelved. Carried.

Rentals. The Secretary read correspondence from the Harbour Board in connection with rents for the ensuing year. Moved Mr. Coppin, seconded Mr. Johncox that we offer $2.00 per front foot per month. Carried.

The Committee appointed to take up the matter of opening hours etc, recommended that no action be taken at present.

Election of officers resulted as follows.

President.	Mr. V. Johncox,
Vice	Mr. R. Urquhart,
Secretary	Mr. F. Westcott,

Meeting then adjourned.

(Sgd) F. Westcott,

Secretary.

(Sgd) V.F. Johncox

President.

PLEASE RETURN TO ORIGINAL ORDER Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation
Filed by Council March 28
16

D COMMITTEE MINUTES

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President.

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Cod Fish Situation
appointed by Council March 28

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1938

OMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE MINUTES

SH SITUATION

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Codfish Situation
Received by Council March 28

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President.

FILED
ORIGINAL ORDER
Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation
Initiated by Council March 28

15

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

re

, CODFISH SITUATION

From Council Minutes,
March 28th, 1938

Re Mr. Chris. Johnson: Cod Fish Situation

A communication was read from Mr. Chris. Johnson in connection with shipments of cod fish to Seattle, suggesting that this subject be investigated.

Moved by Ald. Wilson,
Seconded by Ald. DeGraves,

That the communication from Mr. Chris. Johnson re the shipments of cod fish made to Seattle be referred to Alderman DeGraves and the Market Commissioner for report to the next meeting of the Markets, Exhibition, Industries & Tourist Development Committee, and that Mr. Johnson be invited to submit his views to the Committee.

CARRIED

From Minutes of Markets, Exhibition, Industries &
Tourist Development Committee,
April 4, 1938

Re Cod Fish Enquiry

Mr. T. G. Norris appeared on behalf of the Consolidated Cod Fishermen's Association and made submissions with regard to the operations of this Association.

A communication was received by the Committee from Alderman DeGraves requesting that he be not required to report on the question of cod fish, which was referred to him and the Market Commissioner by Council on March 28th.

Recommended that the submissions by Mr. Norris be received and the resignation of Alderman DeGraves from the Special Committee be not accepted, and that Alderman DeGraves be authorized to carry on with his preliminary enquiry into the cod fish question, and that a member of the Legal Department be available if necessary.

(Adopted by Council, April 11, 1938)

From Council Minutes,
April 11, 1938

RE Cod Fish Enquiry

Moved by Alderman DeGraves,
Seconded by Ald. Corey,

WHEREAS by resolution of Council of March 28th, 1938, Alderman DeGraves and the Market Commissioner were appointed a committee to report with respect to a communication from Mr. Chris. Johnson regarding certain shipments of codfish made to Seattle:

AND WHEREAS further information with respect to the marketing of codfish appears to be available.

RESOLVED that the committee's powers be enlarged to include an enquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the Combines Investigation Act.

CARRIED

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ORIGINAL ORDER
Vancouver City Archives

1938

Codfish Situation
appointed by Council March 28
15

P Y.

5492 E. Hastings St.,
March 26, 1938.

To His Worship the Mayor and Council.

Gentlemen:

I wish to draw your attention to the Cod Fish situation as it prevails in Vancouver at the present time.

I write this letter with the hope that your marketing committee may improve on the system that is now in vogue. At the present time there is a Cod Fishermen's Association, existing in Vancouver, that is controlled by Japanese who fix the price at which Cod fish is to be sold.

For the week of March 7th to March 12th they set the price to the wholesaler in Vancouver at, six cents for large cod and seven for medium. In this same week they shipped eighty thousand pounds to Seattle and sold this quantity at .03½¢ per pound which netted the Cod Association here two cents per pound, because there is one cent duty and one half cent cartage. On this transaction alone of 80,000 lbs., $1,200 was entirely lost to either our consumers, our fishermen, or our fish markets in Vancouver. On this particular week the Association returned the fishermen 2.86 per hundred pounds.

I consider this grossly unfair that Vancouver consumers should have to pay the added load to average the fishermen even this small price.

I think an arrangement could be made so as the fishermen could get at least as much as they are getting now, or more, and that our fish markets could handle the surplus that went to Seattle, and that our consumers should have cheaper cod.

Vancouver has the lowest consumption of fish per capita of any city in the Dominion of Canada and this is a seaport town.

If the cod that went to Seattle had been sold to our wholesalers at .03¢ per pound some of the retail stores in Vancouver would have been able to sell cod fish to our poor and needy at .05¢ per pound.

I write this letter without any prejudice to the Japanese race. If any other nationality were at the head of an association such as this one and who would burden our consumer to the extent of over 100% in favor of the American consumer, would deserve the same condemnation from me.

I hope that some of your aldermen or yourself will be interested in looking into this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) CHRIS JOHNSON

CJ:IAL

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED:

"R. W. Widdess"
Acting Secy.

President.

CARRIED

PLEASE RETURN TO ORIGINAL ORDER
Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation
Read by Council March 28

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

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CARRIED

PLEASE RETURN ORIGINAL ORDER
Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation
referred by Council March 28
16

1938

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

re

.CODFISH SITUATION

From Council Minutes,

COPY

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (Vancouver Branch) HELD APRIL 8, 1938, AT THE OFFICE OF CANADIAN FISH & COLD STORAGE CO. LTD.

Present: Messrs. V.F.Johncox, J. Polley, I. Sugiyama, A. Wineberg, H. Nobouka, J. Athens, F.M. Mills, Wm. Steiner, R.W.Widdess, A. Lowe and S. Humphreys.

President V. F. Johncox took the chair and appointed R.W. Widdess Acting Secretary.

Minutes: Minutes of the last regular meeting were read and adopted.

Reports: Mr. Wm. Steiner reported for the special committee selected to consider the proposal of Station CKMO, that it was found impossible to raise the required amount of money, and that the committee had decided to let the matter drop.

President V.F. Johncox explained at length the fund of $1000.00 received from the Consolidated Codfishermen's Association for advertising purposes, of which $756.06 is still on hand.

After considerable discussion, it was decided to form a new Association to take the place of the present branch organization of the Canadian Fisheries Association.

MOVED by Wm. Steiner, seconded by F.Mills, that a new Association, to be known as the Vancouver Wholesale Fish Dealers Association, be formed.
CARRIED.

MOVED by S. Humphreys, seconded by Wm. Steiner, that the balance of the funds held by the President in trust be placed in a bank account to be opened in the name of the Vancouver Wholesale Fish Dealers Ass'n.
CARRIED.

President V.F. Johncox expressed his agreement with this procedure, but explained that he would have to consult the Consolidated Codfishermen's Association, and if that organization is agreeable, he will comply with the above resolution.

The Secretary was instructed to arrange the necessary Bank Resolution authorizing signatures of the President, Vice President and Secretary or any two of them in connection with the requirements of such Bank Resolution.

A GENERAL DISCUSSION followed, during which the opinion was expressed that the President should be commended for his efforts towards placing the Association in a sound financial position, and that the members of the new Association should be asked to support the idea of building up a fund large enough to accomplish something of lasting benefit to that branch of the fishing industry represented by this Association.

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED:

"R. W. Widdess"
Acting Secy.

President.

CARRIED

FILMED
ORIGINAL ORDER
Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation
Printed by Council March 28

16

1938

D COMMITTEE MINUTES

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Codfish Situation appointed by Council March 28

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PLEASE [illegible]
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Codfish Situation
Authorized by Council March 28

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"R. W. Widdess"
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Codfish Situation
adjourned by Council March 28

15

1938

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

re

.CODFISH SITUATION

From Council Minutes,
March 28th, 1938

Re Mr. Chris. Johnson: Cod Fish Situation

A communication was read from Mr. Chris. Johnson in connection with shipments of cod fish to Seattle, suggesting that this subject be investigated.

Moved by Ald. Wilson,
Seconded by Ald. DeGraves,

That the communication from Mr. Chris. Johnson re the shipments of cod fish made to Seattle be referred to Alderman DeGraves and the Market Commissioner for report to the next meeting of the Markets, Exhibition, Industries & Tourist Development Committee, and [illegible] to submit his views to the Committee.

CARRIED

3. Re Enquiry into Prices charged for Cod Fish.

Council March 31/1938

The question of increasing the personnel of the Special Committee appointed to investigate the price of cod fish in the City was discussed but it was decided that no further action be taken until such time as the Committee has had time to report.

The Council then adjourned.

(Adopted by Council, April 11, [illegible])

From Council Minutes,
April 11, 1938

RE Cod Fish Enquiry

Moved by Alderman DeGraves,
Seconded by Ald. Corey,

WHEREAS by resolution of Council of March 28th, 1938, Alderman DeGraves and the Market Commissioner were appointed a committee to report with respect to a communication from Mr. Chris. Johnson regarding certain shipments of codfish made to Seattle:

AND WHEREAS further information with respect to the marketing of codfish appears to be available.

RESOLVED that the committee's powers be enlarged to include an enquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the Combines Investigation Act.

CARRIED

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Vancouver City Archives

Cod Fish Situation
appointed by Council March 28
15

1938

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

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From Council Minutes,
March 28th, 1938

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From Minutes of Markets, Exhibition, Industries &
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April 4, 1938

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Recommended that the submissions by Mr. Norris be received and the resignation of Alderman DeGraves from the Special Committee be not accepted, and that Alderman DeGraves be authorized to carry on with his preliminary enquiry into the cod fish question, and that a member of the Legal Department be available if necessary.

(Adopted by Council, April 11, 1938)

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CARRIED

PLEASE RETURN ORIGINAL ORDER Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation
Authorized by Council March 28

15

1938

...odfish
...y open in the City
...Wednesday or Thursday.

The City Council on Monday passed a resolution empowering Ald. H. J. De Graves and Market Commissioner W. J. McGuigan to call witnesses before them in an endeavor to ascertain if there is sufficient evidence to warrant the council applying for a probe under the Combines Investigation Act.

It is alleged a Japanese-controlled cod fishermen's association is setting an artificial price for cod in Vancouver and are "unloading" the surplus in Seattle.

PROVINCE - apl. 12/38

COPY.

CITY OF VANCOUVER

RESOLUTION FORM

...lerman H. J. DeGRAVES

...lderman H. L. COREY

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Dated April 11th 1938

Voting Yeas

Nays

FILMED FROM ORIGINAL ORDER Vancouver City Archives

Codfish Situation 15
adopted by Council March 28

COPY.

CITY OF VANCOUVER

RESOLUTION FORM

Moved by Alderman H. J. DeGRAVES

Seconded by Alderman H. L. COREY

~~That~~ XXXX

WHEREAS by resolution of Council of March 28th, 1938, Alderman DeGraves and the Market Commissioner were appointed a committee to report with respect to a communication from Mr. Chris Johnson regarding certain shipments of codfish made to Seattle:

AND WHEREAS further information with respect to the marketing of codfish appears to be available;

RESOLVED that the committee's powers be enlarged to include an enquiry as to whether or not there is sufficient evidence with respect to the matter to warrant an investigation under the Combines Investigation Act.

Dated April 11th 1938

Voting Yeas

Nays

1938

Codfish Situation
Appointed by Council March 28

16

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