

THE DAILY NEWS

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
FEB 4 1918
VICTORIA, B.C.

VOL. IX. NO. 23.

PRINCE RUPERT, B. C., MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FISHERY QUESTION DEMANDS ATTENTION

REFORMS REQUIRED BEFORE ANOTHER SEASON OPENS—NOW IS TIME TO ACT.

CLAIMS FISHERY OFFICIAL TOO FAVORABLE TO CANNERS

PLAIN SPEAKING ON FISHERIES QUESTION AT A VANCOUVER MEETING LAST WEEK—CANNERY COMBINE ALLEGED TO BE RESTRICTING OUTPUT OF FISH FOOD FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT

At a meeting held in Vancouver last week to consider the question of the supply of cheap fish, some remarkable allegations were made. The meeting had been called by Mayor Gale, and among those present were Mr. J. C. Cunningham, president of the B. C. Manufacturers Association; Mr. John Wallace, representing the fish sub-committee of the provincial food conservation committee, and several others. The meeting was the outcome of the report made by Mr. Wallace to the Dominion food controller regarding trawling to supply the interior provinces with fish at a low price, and thus to relieve the demand for meat products.

Mr. Cunningham in the course of the discussion, alleged that the great fishing interests of British Columbia would neither fish themselves nor let anyone else fish in certain areas, that they stood between the consumer and a supply of fish at a moderate price, and between the overseas and any supply forth mentioning, and that they had even been able to defeat the efforts of the food controller.

Hand in Glove.
Mr. Cunningham declared that the cannerymen dictated to the Department of Fisheries. Mr. Babcock, of that department, he said, was hand in glove with them and he looked more to the interests of the cannerymen than to the interests of the industry. One firm, with a big equipment and able to employ some three hundred men had been unable to obtain a licence from the department, which reported that it had no equipment. Mr. Hanna had overridden the Department and had told this firm to go ahead and fish. When they got to the ground it was found that it was held by licencees, who were not fishing themselves and would let no one else fish.

Turned Down.
Some time ago, Sir Edward Kemp had wired him, wanting to place an order for fish for shipment overseas. He had taken it up with all the big concerns, and one after another they had turned him down. Finally, Mr. Hager had supplied half a million pounds but that was a mere bagatelle. The big interests would not even quote. They did not want the business, and they would not let anyone else have it.

Change Required.
Nothing could be done until they overrode the Fisheries Department. People had to go to wholesale grocers for fishing licences. They still had to go to some of them. They should strike at the root of the whole question and let the government know that the people demanded a change.

There was some further discussion on the matter, when it

was said that whenever any big question came up, there was so many telegrams and representations made from this province that the government officials did not know what to believe. The suggestion was made that a representative should be sent to Ottawa direct, but this was left over.

GERMAN PLAN TO SPLIT BELGIUM

Amsterdam, Jan. 26.—Advices received here from Brussels say that the self-constituted "Council of Flanders" announces that it will hold an election for the purpose of giving the Flemish people the opportunity of expressing their will regarding full independence.

The despatch adds that a deputation of the Council which waited on the German Minister of the Interior, Herr Wallraf, received a sympathetic reply, the Secretary expressing his best wishes for the further cultivation of Flemish aims for autonomy.

BRITAIN PROHIBITS EXPORT OF CAPITAL

London, Jan. 26.—A proclamation published in the "London Gazette" prohibits the importation into the United Kingdom of all bonds, debentures, stocks, or share certificates, scrip and other documents of title relating to any stocks, shares, or other securities, with the exception of matured bonds redeemable in the United Kingdom and coupons falling due for payment in the United Kingdom; or the subscribing to any loan or issue of capital, purchasing any stock, shares, or securities, or any property other than merchandise, if securities or property are not in the United Kingdom, or purchasing any foreign currency to be held with a view to appreciation in value. Bankers as a condition of sending any remittance out of the United Kingdom must require the person concerned to make a written declaration as to the purpose of the remittance.

THE POLICE COURT

Acting upon information received, the police made a raid upon the Skeena Club, situated underground on Sixth Street late last night and roped in nine men, who were arraigned this morning before Magistrate Cars under the gaming act. The case was adjourned until tomorrow.

Two men, named V. Reda and Peter Bomben, were also charged with doing damage to the water-main, whereby the reservoir on Acropolis Hill was emptied. They had been felling a tree for wood, which fell across the main, breaking it, which fact they did not report, nor did they repair the pipe. The case was adjourned until the 31st, to give them a chance to pay for the damage.

Mr. E. H. Paterson, of the Canadian Fish and Cold Storage Co., accompanied by Mrs. Paterson and family, returned last evening from Haysport district, where they had been spending a few days on the ranch.

Ladysmith Wellington Coal reduces your fuel bill and gives satisfaction. Phone 15. P. F. Coal Co.

THE RESIGNATION OF MR. W. J. HANNA

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—Mr. W. J. Hanna, in his letter of resignation to the Prime Minister, said that the scope of the work of food controller has so broadened, and the duties have so multiplied as to call for absolutely undivided and uninterrupted service to the exclusion of all other duties and obligations. This Mr. Hanna finds it practically impossible at present.

Sir Robert Borden, in accepting Mr. Hanna's resignation, expressed his regret at the action, and paid a great tribute to the ability and devotion which Mr. Hanna brought to his work.

Mr. H. B. Thomson, who has been appointed instead of Mr. Hanna, is one of Victoria's well known business men. He was one of the members of the commission appointed by the late government to investigate into the fishery regulations obtaining on this part of the British Columbia coast, and which has reported against the concessions which Prince Rupert's delegation obtained from Ottawa previously. Mr. Thomson will be remembered as the big Irishman with the rough voice, who seemed to think that Prince Rupert would never be anything else than a fishing village.

CANADA MAKING MANY AEROPLANE ENGINES

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—The first airplane engine manufactured in Canada was successfully tested in Toronto, according to a telegram received by Sir Joseph Flavelle, Chairman of the Imperial Munitions Board. A thousand of these engines will be delivered, and installed in the completed machines this year.

For New Wellington Coal and Lumber of all dimensions. Phone 116.

SLIDES UP RIVER BRING WIRES DOWN

No telegraphic news has reached the city today up to time of going to press. On enquiry it is learned that there has been a slide east of Usk, blocking the railroad and bringing down wires belonging to both the services. On that account, we are compelled to do without our usual war dispatches.

ALL COMEDY AT THE WESTHOLME TONIGHT

Starting in with the new Triangle service, there will be an all comedy programme at the Westholme Theatre this evening. "The Pinch Hitter," to be screened tonight is a baseball story. "I have seen some thrilling baseball games in my time," says Mr. F. C. Lane, editor of Baseball Magazine, "but the 'Pinch Hitter' was the prize thriller. As to atmosphere, I lacked only a bag of peanuts and a bottle of pop to imagine myself in the grand stand, and not a theatre."

The story concerns a lubberly farmer's boy, who incites the gibes of dapper college men, when he arrives on the campus. They consider him a specimen of the prehistoric age, as his clothes would indicate. However, he shows them something in the way of baseball at a crucial moment. Charles Ray and Sylvia Bremer are stars who shine brightly in the movie firmament, and from beginning to the end of the whole programme tonight is one grand sweet smile.

F. O. E. 1945.

All Eagles are requested to attend a meeting in the K. P. Hall on Wednesday, January 30th, at 8:30 p.m. Business: Election of office-bearers and finding ways and means of ensuring better success for the Eagle Lodge, Brother Loop, our secretary, has gone to Tacoma.

A BROTHER.

FISHING LICENCES IS A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER FOR RUPERT

CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY ALL CONCERNED IN THE INDUSTRY FOR GREATER SUPPLIES AND FREE FISHING RIGHTS FOR ALL FISHERMEN—DOG IN THE MANGER POLICY MUST GO

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEEL PLANT

Victoria, Jan. 26.—On his arrival back in the city, Premier Brewster, replying to questions from the press representatives, said that the matter of establishing an iron and steel plant in British Columbia was a subject which had engaged the particular attention of the Government and of himself personally. With the object of directing every particle of energy on Ottawa in this connection, Mr. Brewster has taken the matter up with Sir Robert Borden and a number of his ministers.

Mr. Brewster stated definitely that the question of location had not been discussed and that when such a time arrived the matter would demand very careful consideration. In fact, it would have to be shown why such and such a location would be better than the other. The whole province, he said, would have to be considered and not one particular locality.

MORE ROLLING STOCK FOR CANADA'S RAILWAYS

Ottawa, Jan. 28.—The Railway Department will shortly place orders for \$7,000,000 worth of new rolling stock. Contracts for \$4,000,000 worth of new locomotives, cars, etc., were let some months ago, and deliveries are now being made. Parliament voted last session \$25,000,000 for additional equipment for Canada's railways, and the contracts are being placed as rapidly as the steel companies can handle them. Although the new cars are primarily for use on the Government railways, they will be loaned to the Canadian Northern, Grand Trunk and other roads as occasion requires. The new orders will be for \$3,000,000 worth of passenger cars, with \$4,000,000 for box cars and locomotives.

SHIPS WILL HAVE FOOD IN EVERY INCH OF SPACE

London, Jan. 26.—The Ministry of Food has submitted to a conference of shipowners a scheme by which, through their co-operation, additional supplies of food may be brought into the country. The Director of Ships Stores, Mr. T. G. Jones, presided over the conference, at which sixty of the leading London firms were represented. The scheme was unanimously accepted.

Every ship, large and small, coming into British ports will use such spare store room or other accommodation available—every passenger state-room when unoccupied—for the conveyance of food stuffs.

All surplus stores brought in this way will be pooled.

The pool will be controlled on co-operative lines by a committee of shipowners at the large ports, and these pooled supplies will be put in or taken out at actual cost price, including insurance.

Home supplies will be drawn from as little as possible.

Wines and liquors for the home. Your money back, from Gold Seal, Ltd., if not satisfied. See H. E. Ross, Agent, Empress Hotel.

The meeting recently held in Vancouver, which is noticed in another column, brings up a vital question, which will be settled some time or other, and in the opinion of the fishermen, ought to have been settled long ago. It concerns the parcelling out of the British Columbia coast, by licences, among a certain very small number of firms for the sole and exclusive rights to fish therein. Practically all the creeks which flow into the ocean from here to Vancouver have been taken up by these firms and any outsider is denied the privilege or right to fish for salmon therein. It does not matter whether the holders of these licences are fishing themselves or not, and in a very many cases they do not fish themselves, but by the system of licences, they are enabled to prevent any other persons from fishing in these particular waters.

It is safe to say that were the fishing free and open, subject of course to the regulations for the protection of the fish, that something like twenty times the quantity of salmon might be landed in B. C., which would go a long way to help in the present stringency of the food supplies, and this too without any fear of depleting the supplies of fish.

One thing which the Provincial Department will not do, and that is to show just what areas are held by these corporations, the B. C. packers, Bell-Irving and a few others. Only recently practically the whole of the west coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands was granted to one firm. Local fishermen, who attempted to fish in these waters were fined. By increasing the catch of salmon, there would be no difficulty in securing a market. The market is there already, and by cheapening the price, which would come naturally by the increasing of the supply, a much greater demand would ensue. Dog salmon and humpbacks are fit to eat, and are good food, either fresh or frozen, as well as canned.

Prince Rupert fought a lone hand nearly a year ago, and obtained concessions from Ottawa. This time Prince Rupert will have Vancouver with her, and time is now ripe for a determined effort being put forth to break the combine which has throttled the fishing on this coast for so long. Let there be protection for the fish, by all means, but no protection for the cannerymen. We have no representatives yet in Ottawa, and the new food controller, by virtue of the report which the commission he was on, is favorably inclined to the cannerymen, therefore, it is up to those interested in the progress of the fishing industry to have representatives sent to Ottawa to deal with the government direct. It is necessary that this be done soon, as the time is at hand when these exclusive licences call for renewal.

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AND A
SIX DAY WEEK FOR HELP.

WESTHOLME

TONIGHT ONLY

New Triangle Service
CHAS. RAY and SYLVIA BREMER
—IN—
"THE PINCH HITTER"
A corking Baseball Story.

NOTE: Sylvia Bremer is the daughter of an English naval commander, born in Australia.

TRIANGLE COMEDY