

BRINGING UP FATHER



Canning Crabs at Naden Harbor

An Interesting Account of How the Material is Obtained for the Crab Salads and Cocktails.
By G. S. FITZMAURICE.

Despite the fact that the fish packing business is decidedly one of the most important industries of this province, British Columbia being justly famous the world over for its canned salmon, it is surprising what a comparatively few people there are right in the district where the fish are put up, who have actually seen the entire process of putting up a can of fish and learned the life-story of the finny denizen of the deep, in its somewhat chequered career so to speak, "from the cradle to the grave."

Up to the present, although there are a great number of varieties of fish to be found in the waters of the Pacific Coast, practically the only fish that are marketed in any appreciable quantity, are salmon and halibut. Within the last couple of years, however, the putting up of crabs in cans for the world markets has been successfully launched and it will not be very long before canned crab will be well known as a delectable delicacy, vying with canned lobster in its popularity amongst pick-nickers and those addicted to late and recherche little suppers after the theatre or opera.

Saw It in Process.

The writer being at Naden Harbor, which is situated on the Northern coast of Graham Island, the largest of the group of islands known as the Queen Charlotte, was fortunate enough to be able to spend a day at the cannery located there, which puts up the famous "Naden Brand" of crab meat. He was also in luck that the day of his visit, a full day's pack was in process of being handled. It might be of interest to a number of people to read an eye witness' description of the whole proceeding.

In the first place of course, it is necessary to catch your crab. At the time of the writer's visit, about ten men (Indians) were attending to this, necessarily the most important part of the whole business. They are the fishermen. They use crab pots and hoop nets, two distinct ways of luring the wily crab into their clutches. Crab pots of course are similar to the lobster pots used on the Atlantic coast and in Europe. It is a case of, its easy to get in but quite another question when it comes to getting out.

The Nets.

Hoop nets are cone shaped nets attached to a hoop of half inch round iron, which are sunk to the bottom with a bait reposing enticingly in the net. A float attached by a line to each net denotes the location. In some cases the fishermen place the pots and hoop nets in straight lines, the latter being the most usual way. Each fisherman has a string of pots and nets and goes backwards and forwards lifting them to the surface to harvest his crop.

On the particular occasion being described, the days catch consisted of 1600 crabs, which were piled on the cannery deck by 8 o'clock in the evening. Now a start is made in preparing the crabs for the pickers and packers, who commence work at 8 o'clock the following morning.

First Cooking.

First process; plunging the live crustaceans about 130 at a time in iron crates, into vats of boiling water, which partially cooks them, as they are kept in the water for fifteen minutes. Upon being taken out, they are washed and cooled under a stream of ice cold water. Next the crabs, which by now have assumed a bright red color, are dismembered, the legs and claws being placed in piles on tables ready for cracking, the bodies

being washed and placed on draining tables. This finishes the evening's operations, and now all is ready for the workers the next morning.

Eight a.m. has arrived, and the first on the scene are the "crackers," Indian men and youths, five in number, to crack the legs and claws. Interesting data may here be given, to show at what speed the men can work; each crab has eight legs and two claws, and these five men and boys cracked 16,000 actual limbs by 12 noon, an average of 800 per hour per man. Each limb requires five actual operations if there are no misses. Taking it up, delivering three blows, and placing it again on the pile, which means 16,000 actual operations per hour.

Skill Required.

The instruments used for cracking are small lignum vitae mallets. The blows have to be gauged so accurately, that when a change was made from the ordinary wooden mallets to the lignum vitae ones, it takes the men several days to get on to the exact strength of the blow required with the new mallets. At 8:30 the pickers start on the limbs and bodies. They average from 9 to 10 pounds per hour. Half an hour later the fillers commence putting the meat into the cans.

One must dwell for a moment here to describe this filling of cans which is a most delicate and particular performance. There are five distinct operations. First a piece of oiled paper is placed in the can, then a layer of legs or claws, the centre is filled with a piece of the body of the crab, and another layer of legs or claws is placed on top. The paper is then folded neatly over the contents ready for the lid to be put on.

Domestic Science Kitchen.

The cannery by this time has begun to assume more the appearance of a Domestic Science kitchen, than the ordinary fish cannery. The girls are all neatly dressed in blue frocks and white aprons, the tables and fish trays are all spotlessly white and clean and all the metal utensils shine brightly. By 11 o'clock the first batch is ready to start to run through the exhaust box to take the air out, and from there, are carried along on carriers to the double seamer, when they are ready for the final cooking in the retort.

During the noon hour the picking and filling tables are scrubbed and cleaned with boiling water. At 1 o'clock the pickers and fillers return to finish their work, it taking the former until between 3 and 4 and the latter until around 5:30 before they are through.

Last Act of Drama.

The last act of the drama is

the placing of the cans which are on trays containing five or six dozen each, piled one on top of the other on little trucks, in the retort for cooking, which takes some three quarters of an hour. This marks the finish of the crab's hectic career, since it fell for the fisherman's wiles, until the can is prised open by some hungry mortal who is figuring on a particularly juicy and succulent tit-bit.

After the last can is filled, the busy hive becomes deserted, only one or two helpers remaining, who thoroughly wash and scour the whole plant, ready for the next delivery of crabs from the fishermen. Dutch cleanser, salt, and the steam hose play an important part in the cleaning up operations.

No Orientals

Altogether the whole process of the putting up of the fish is most interesting and illuminating. No Orientals whatever are employed, the work being done almost entirely by Haida Indians, who as everyone knows are the aristocrats of the native population of the north. They are well educated and highly intelligent people, who speak excellent English. At present the number employed are in the neighborhood of 30, with only a very few whites. The payroll is quite a consideration, coming as it does in the off months between October and May.

It is the intention of the company later if possible to employ entirely white help, they having in view inducing immigration to the island of families of fisher folk, either from the Atlantic seaboard or the Old Country.

WATLA IS COMING FROM VANCOUVER TO REPLACE MYFANWY

Vancouver Provincial Police Launch to Be Transferred to This District.

The provincial police launch "Watla" will arrive here next week from Vancouver to replace in this district the "Myfanwy," which, having been found unsuitable for service here, is to be returned to Vancouver. The "Watla" has operated for several years in the police service in Vancouver and is a much larger faster and more powerful craft than the "Myfanwy." She is now being fitted up at Vancouver for the trip up the coast. On her arrival, the "Myfanwy" will be taken south.

The "Watla" was built in Vancouver in 1913. She is 43 feet long, 10 feet beam, 5 feet 5 inches deep. Her gross tonnage is 19 and registered, 13. She is equipped with a high power 50 horsepower two cycle engine. The "Myfanwy" is 35 feet 2 inches long, 9 feet three inches wide and 3 feet 6 inches deep. Her gross tonnage is 10 and registered, 5. The "Watla" is capable of much greater speed than the 8 knots of the "Myfanwy."

MISTOOK DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO GOT HIM SENT TO JAIL

KETCHIKAN, June 9.—When one is going to hit someone for the price of a drink of red liquor he should be very careful to pick his person; and above

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SITUATIONS WANTED

POSITION wanted by gas engineer on fish packer or halibut boat. Doane, Dominion Hotel.

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BOARD—Inlander, 830 Second Avenue. Phone 137.

BUSINESS LOCATION.

I HAVE an excellent and inexpensive business location to rent or sell. Write for appointment. P. O. Box 831.

all got Arthur G. Shoup, United States attorney, spotted. For he is sure rough on anyone doing that little thing.

Saturday Ed. Maxwell approached the district attorney on the street, asked him for 50 cents and said he wanted it to buy a drink of liquor. It was reported, too, that he had done likewise with several others and successfully. But Shoup was his Waterloo for he took him into custody and turned him over to Marshal Beaumont.

Maxwell appeared in the commissioner's court, pleaded guilty to vagrancy and was given ten days in the federal jail. He told the district attorney he was sorry, as he "look him for someone else."

OLD STUFF.

"Go to Father," she said. When I asked her to wed. Now she knew that I knew that her father was dead. And she knew that I knew of the life he had led. And she knew that I knew what she meant when she said: "Go to Father."

"SOFT FINISH" STATISTICS

A great many ladies took advantage of our special price on "Soft Finish" laundry last week. That they were satisfied is evident by the number who have sent again.

As we placed no limit on the size of the bundle, it is interesting to note, that the largest did not exceed 40 pounds, that the ordinary charge, Soft Finish, varied from \$1.15 to \$3.45, and that the average bundle did not exceed \$2.00 in price.

We noted also that washing from our regular patrons finished in much better condition than work which had previously been done at home or elsewhere—another argument in favor of patronizing the laundry where scientific processes are followed.

A trial will convince you. CANADIAN STEAM LAUNDRY. Phone 8.

FOUND.

FOUND—Key ring belonging to a mason. Apply Daily News Office.

REAL HOTEL BARGAIN.

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE—4 roomed house, two lots and all in garden, \$1700, half cash or \$1500 all cash. 7 roomed house with additional 5 room apartment, on cement piles, bath, etc., excellent condition and good location \$3,000 on easy payments. 4 room house, lot in garden, chicken house, etc., near King Edward School, \$1700, terms. Lot 3, block 30, section 1, with 94 ft. frontage on Biggar Place and three roomed house \$1000 cash. Lots 34 and 35, Block 3, Sec. 2, View lots on Atlin Avenue. A perfect homestead, \$750, half cash. One lot on Beach Place for \$325, a beauty. Lots 68 and 69, block 12, section 2, \$780, terms or \$750 cash. M. M. Stephens.

FOR SALE—48 h.p. Winton-six automobile engine, complete with Bosch magneto, Paragon reverse gear, Universal coupler, Columbia propeller, brass tail shaft and stern bearing, all in good shape. Suitable for speedboat. Price \$200.00. C. L. Heindel, Seal Cove. If.

FOR SALE—Columbia cabinet Gramofone and records, McClary heater, No. 24; dining table, six chairs, buffet; Wilton carpets; mahogany dresser with chiffoniere to match. All practically new. Phone Green 504, 6 Summit Apartments.

FOR SALE—Piano, "Stanley"; rich singing tone; good touch and action. \$365.00. Oak music cabinet \$30.00. "Raleigh" bicycle, \$10.00. Furniture and pictures, 527 Eighth Avenue West. Telephone Green 497.

FOR SALE—Living room and dining room furniture; office chair, electric iron and grill, cheap for cash. Phone Black 407.

FOR SALE—Sixty cords hemlock and cedar; cut fine, \$3.50 per cord or 85 f.o.b. W. Sims, Jap Inlet, Porcher Island. If

FOR SALE—New 7 drawer Singer Sewing Machine at a sacrifice—Phone Black 128.

FOR SALE—Four wheel baby's go-cart, like new, best make. Phone black 128.

PIANO for sale, Mahogany finish, \$350. Apply Linzey's Grocery.

ENGLISH Buggy for sale, in good condition. Phone Black 318.

By George McManus

FOR SALE—Tenders for purchase of Navy League boat "Heale" will be received up to June 14, 1933. Boat lying at Dry Dock, Apply P. O. Box 1555, City.

FOR SALE—Furniture of four roomed flat, complete, at a bargain. Worth investigation. Flat for rent, Apartment 1, Clapp Block. Phone Blue 273.

FOR SALE—Two cows; fresh milkers. W. Sims, Jap Inlet, Porcher Island.

ELITE Cafe for sale, furnished complete. Phone 173.

BUSINESS CHANCES.

FOR SALE—Building, 25x50 on float. Good wharfage for boats during winter months. A man handy at repair work could build up a good business here. Eventually splendid location for East End Club quarters. We will sell this place at a low price and on terms to suit purchaser. Apply Northern Exchange. See us for boats and engines. If

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WELL furnished house to rent from July 1. Five rooms, two bedrooms. Apply Box 27 Daily News Office.

FOR RENT—Furnished house-keeping suites. Apply 410 Sixth Avenue East. Phone Blue 217.

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