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Waterfront Whiffs

Doings of the Mosquito Fleet Which is the Chief Source of Prince Rupert's Prosperity

The Admiral reports that the ships of the Mosquito Fleet are in fine shape, both as regards morale of the crews and the seaworthiness of the vessels. Practically the entire fleet having completed their winter overhaul. Ninety per cent of the boats are out of port hitting a merry clip on the "high spots" and from reports to hand the going was fine earlier in the week with wind the last day or two.

The rise in the price of fish early in the week had a stimulating effect upon the pulses of the fishermen, and an air of keen optimism prevails along the waterfront for a bumper season.

Herring arrivals have been eagerly up to the expectations of those engaged in this industry, and with several large catches landed during the week the bait shortage is now a thing of the past.

While there are a number of smaller craft still out of port on trapping bent, the arrivals of fur during the past week have been on the light side. It is expected that a number of the smaller boats engaged in this industry will make port early in the week from Banks Island and other outlying points for the purpose of disposing of fur cargoes, taking on provisions, and doing minor repairs.

From reports to hand the trapping has been particularly good this season, and the price of fur in the local market has proved to be a remunerative business. To date the mink has been the predominating catch, while quite a number of martin and fisher skins have been landed.

The fishermen are very elated over the prospect of having fresh water piped down to Cow Bay within handy reach of the boats. It is rumored that the city will commence on this work in the near future and that the hydrant will be placed on the wharf near the Ward Electric Building. The question of fresh drinking water for the fishermen has been a sore spot in their hearts for some time past, as water is only obtainable for personal use at Dave's machine shop, some seven hundred yards distant from the boat, and should this become frozen the pioneer rooms is the next watering place, which is quite some distance from the bay. When the installation of the fresh water system is an established fact there will be no valid excuse for the inhabitants of the floats having nothing good to drink.

The shrimp fishing industry has taken a slump with the improvement of the halibut fishing, and the boats previously reported engaged in this enterprise have been overhauled and are now playing their trade on the deep sea fishing grounds. Those of the "live ones" who have been shrimp fishing during the slack months report that they have received good support from the local retail fishermen and are quite satisfied with their venture. Doubtless the shrimp fishing department of the Mosquito Fleet has come to stay during the off months of the year.

The Eel, Captain Tackaneva, arrived in port last Monday from an extended trapping expedition around Giff Island and Rivers Inlet, and landed fifteen mink and six coon skins of first class

quality. Cap is now busy overhauling his craft and contemplating leaving port again in the near future for other fields of fur exploitation.

The Wigwam, Captain Claude Ketchum with his first mate, Jimmy Thomas, arrived in port early in the week from Metlakatla, where a boom of logs was left for the Georgetown mill.

Captain Newcomb of the Dixie Rupert has been tangling wheels with Flossie during the week. Cap has had a deal of personal correspondence to get through lately, which could only be written by himself aboard the lugger in absolute privacy, and as a consequence his business letters have been passed up. The idea the Cap. had in mind was that if he could persuade Flossie to tie the dominoes on her Underwood for him that he could get his letter writing up to date. That is the business end. The very personal letters are going out in sack fulls on every east-bound train.

However, Flossie has given up her dominoe tickling activities, and told Cap that if he was prepared to turn his boat over to her with some money to boot she would consider doing the letter writing. Cap is now sitting up nights figuring out if the proposition is a worth while one or not. Meantime the recipient of the personal mail is sitting up nights reading the epistles so ably penned by the scribe of the Rupert Dixie.

Hugh Boswell, bookkeeper of the Georgetown mill, arrived in the city on Tuesday aboard the mill launch Gladys B. Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Dixon were also aboard. The Gladys B. cleared for her home port on Wednesday morning.

The Big Bay Lumber Company received a scow load of fish boxes for the Pacific and Royal fish houses, and a scow load of lumber for local consumption, early in the week, from the Georgetown mill.

Captain G. Bursley, owner of the halibut schooner St. Elol, is contemplating a salmon trolling expedition in the early spring. The St. Elol is at present out on the halibut banks in charge of Captain Wilson, but on her return to port will undergo an overhaul and will be skippered by her owner in the future.

Captain Petersen of the E. Lipsett was the recipient of a very beautiful flag for his new craft at the hands of Harry Lipsett during the week. The maiden cruise of the new halibut boat will take place early in the coming week.

Flossie Flirt and Jack Toner evidently aspire to become well known in the literary world. Poetry is the basis of their coming renown, and these two budding writers are hard at work on a beautiful and poetic theme which, when completed, will be entitled "Who Put Sand in the Baby's Milk?" It will be patent to any well known writer that a plot of this nature, when woven together by mystery in the hands of such clever writers as "afore mentioned, would form a wonderful basis for either a melodrama of blood curdling effect or for a moving picture reel of much beauty. The idea presented itself to Flossie when her sister's baby had convul-

sions through its father feeding it boracic powder dissolved in water in mistake for milk compound. When the poem is completed, and if the copyright is not too severe, it will be reproduced in Whiffs.

The W. & P., Captain George Cook, left port on Wednesday morning for the "high spots." During his sojourn in port Cap has been busy refitting the interior of his floating home. The culinary department has undergone a complete transformation, and a brand new set of willow pattern dishes has been installed to take the place of the two sided and much worn eating utensils which have reined for a long period on the mug-up board.

The Scrub, Captain Adophe Prince, arrived in port early in the week with a bumper cargo of halibut, and cleared again on Friday to renew acquaintance with his deep sea friends.

The Volunteer is in port at Cow Bay undergoing machinery repairs prior to leaving again for the "high spots."

Captain Dinty Moore has arrived in port aboard the Joe Baker and is under the watchful eye of the secret service of the Fleet. Upon landing it was noticed Dinty tucked something very smartly into his inner pocket, but after a prolonged shadowing by the S. S. it was discovered that the article tucked away was just the joker from a pack of cards, and it is thought this was skillfully retained by Dinty when the Admiral confiscated his special pack. Evidently Dinty is making the collection of jokers a pastime.

Captain Isaac Lear of the N. & S., has been promoted during the week to chief engineer of the Fleet. This is a very popular promotion for the well known skipper, as the Cap had always been one of the first to render first aid to disabled vessels. He has a wonderful mechanical mind and it is said he is busy in his spare time building a tin lizzie, which will be entirely constructed from an alarm clock his wife threw on the rubbish heap, and a packet of pins. The wheels are to be constructed with old cotton reels and elastic bands for tires. The motive power will be furnished by the use of the clock main spring. If it proves a success the Cap will be a formidable competitor of Henry Ford.

The Mayflower, Captain Jud Thurber, is out of port on fishing bent.

Captain Charlie Pratt, of the Helen D. thinks there is money in sword fish catching, and with this object in view is refitting his boat in regular pirate fashion. Charlie says he can sell the swords to the Canadian militia and make money on 'em. The weapon of offence will be a machine gun firing an armor piercing bullet, and he is now busy fixing up the gun turret on top of the pilot house. Cap has collected all the old plates around town and will nail them around the hull to prevent any hostile sword fish from putting anything over on him and ramming a hole below decks.

There is much weeping and gnashing of teeth aboard the Scrub these days. The cook has something ailing him and the skipper wonders if he has been and gone and got into love some place. It is said that at meal times he puts the sugar into the coffee pot and the coffee into the cups, and that he is often seen with paper and pencil drawing the features of a beautiful female. The skipper says that with the coming of spring there is evidently an epidemic of female worship breaking out along the waterfront he having received several complaints of a like nature.

The Viola, Capt. Chas. Strachan, still has her spar lying horizontally instead of on a vertical plane, and it is rumored that the Admiral of the Fleet has made particular note of this fact. There is a heavy fine in the fleet if the spar of any boat lies at a horizontal angle over a certain period so that Cap had better watch his step.

The Viking, which Cap. Petersen has turned down for his modern craft the E. Lipsett was recently sold for \$175, so it is

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