



THE DAILY NEWS

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Published Every Afternoon, except Sunday, the Prince Rupert Daily News, Limited, Third Avenue, H. F. PULLEN, Managing Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

City Delivery, by mail or carrier, per month \$1.00
By mail to all parts of the British Empire and the United States, in advance, per year \$6.00
To all other countries, in advance, per year \$7.50

Transient Display Advertising... \$1.40 per inch per insertion
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Advertising and Circulation Telephone - 98
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All advertising should be in The Daily News Office on day preceding publication. All advertising received subject to approval.

Member of Audit Bureau of Circulations.

DAILY EDITION

Friday, December 14, 1923.

MUCH DISCUSSION AT FISHERIES MEETING LAST NIGHT BUT LITTLE BENEFIT IS OBTAINED THEREFROM.

(continued from page one)

ed delaying action until after the next United States election. Protection had suffered a setback in England and the same might occur in the United States.

Urged Delay

James Coombs referred to the injury that would be done American fishermen by closing the port. A certain number of Canadian fishermen worked on American boats and furthermore Canada could not consume her own catch. He did not think it was feasible to bar American boats at this time although he thought there should be some retaliation for the 2c tariff. Some results might come from the recent visit here of Hon. Ernest Lapointe, minister of fisheries, and he would favor leaving things as they were until it was known definitely what that result might be.

M. P. McCaffery was not in favor of closing the port. A resolution to that effect might displease the Dominion government and the Canadian National Railways upon which the city was dependent for its development. The railway owed much revenue to the fact that this was an open fishing port.

Stork's View

Fred Stork interpreted the feeling of the meeting as favoring the removal of the 2c tariff rather than the closing of the port which should be an action taken only as a last resort. Hon. Ernest Lapointe and Hon. Jacques Bureau had been here and learned the situation. President Harding's visit to Alaska might also bring about some changes through Mr. Hoover who had accompanied him. The viewpoint of Ketchikan he took it was not the viewpoint of Alaska as a whole. An effort was being made to abrogate the Jones' Bill which was detrimental to Prince Rupert. In deciding to close Atlantic ports, Canada was forcing the issue, Mr. Stork said. He felt sure that results would follow that action and he counselled that no action be taken on the local situation until it was seen what those results

might be. By the time parliament met next it might be known what the United States intended to do.

Owners' Viewpoint

Pete Rorvik pointed out that Canadian fishermen were losing money while the authorities worked at Ottawa and Washington. Canadian fishermen did not object to an open port but they did object to the 2c tariff which resulted in their receiving lower prices on the Exchange. Something might be done with the fish buyers who as matters stood now were gambling on Canadian fish. If the price of Canadian fish came down Canadian fishermen would have to go out of business or go to the United States. It would amount to the same thing if Canadian fish were paid 2c higher than American fish. The fish buyers, he felt, could do much towards equalizing prices.

Ald. Macdonald believed that it was about time the business men of the city took up the question. It was a fight between Ketchikan and Prince Rupert and as such the businessmen of Prince Rupert were as vitally interested as the fishermen.

Ald. Collart endorsed the attitude of Ald. Macdonald. He wanted to assist but wanted to know how to do so.

Tom Mackenzie suggested the clapping of a 3c or 4c tax on American boats which landed fish here but outfitted at Ketchikan.

Unrestricted Reciprocity

Fred Stork agreed that the tariff was the issue and referred to the offer of Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance, to remove the Canadian 1c tariff if the United States wiped out their 2c duty and bring about unrestricted reciprocity with United States in the fisheries.

Charles Wallace referred to the fact that Canada had put on the 1c tariff first eight years ago. If the port were closed to American fishermen, they would be unable to market fresh fish for three months during the summer. That would remedy the situation.

Robert Hanna counselled the waiting for a result of Hon. Er-

nest Lapointe's visit. If the port were closed the buyers would leave and there would not be much left in Prince Rupert. Ben Self said his business receipts had been cut in half since the 2c American tariff had been put on a year ago. Merchants here were dead, he said. Prices were being asked here that were not being asked in Ketchikan. If other businessmen would do the same, he was willing to cut his profits in half to meet the situation.

Varied Opinion

Mr. Ritchie, an owner, felt that the port should be closed like was being done in the East. Dave Millen said that might be all right for the owners but it would deprive employed fishermen of a living.

Capt. Morrison was against closing the port. A 2c tonnage tax on American boats seemed to him more feasible.

Fred Stork said the tonnage tax had been under advisement but he did not know whether it was favored by the department or not.

Harry Rochester thought matters ought to be brought to a showdown though it might be wise to wait a little longer before urging the closing of the port.

W. Shrubbsall said the 1c Canadian tariff had started the whole thing. He would be sorry to see the port closed and would like to see how matters worked out on the Atlantic coast.

J. Coombs wanted the mayor to call a meeting of businessmen to ascertain where they stood on the matter. There were 10 fishermen at this meeting and he wondered how many businessmen there were. While a Canadian fisherman perhaps had \$2,000 at stake in a home, merchants had \$10,000 or \$50,000 at stake in stores and stocks.

Refer to Committees

Ald. Macdonald thought there would be better results from the matter being taken up by the fisheries committees of the Board of Trade and city council with a fishermen's committee than there would be from passing a resolution at this meeting.

Ald. Collart agreed with Ald. Macdonald. Though some favored closing the port and others did not, no reasons had been given for the attitudes taken.

David Thomson thought all the business men should be present for it involved them as much as the fishermen—perhaps more so.

Working on It Year

M. P. McCaffery wondered what committees could do. The Board of Trade committee had been working on the matter for the past year and had sent a delegation to Ottawa. Mr. Stork and the federal ministers were also doing all in their power. Nothing could be done by meetings such as these and he moved an adjournment. W. Lane seconded.

Ald. Macdonald said he had much confidence in Mr. Stork but he believed he would welcome the advice and assistance of a committee.

W. H. Montgomery felt that Canada should fight back with United States' swaggon. The choice was to have Canadian fishermen die out by inches or make one gallant stand with success as the reward. A tonnage tax might bring about the desired effect and closing of the port should only be a last resort. It was a fight for life of Prince Rupert and the citizens should do all in their power to protect Canadian fishermen.

B. M. Newell saw no way out but by closing the port to American fishermen. He did not think it would harm Canadian fishermen.

Harry Lear was in favor of closing the port to American fishermen. Such action would increase the population of the city. Prince Rupert was the finest fishing port on the Pacific Coast. If it were closed to American fishermen they would have to come here and build their boats in order to use it.

After further discussion as to the method of appointing a committee and the personnel of it, the resolution heretofore recorded was adopted unanimously.

Gasoline Tax

Discussion of the gasoline tax was dropped after G. A. Woodland and Fred Stork expressed the opinion that the Act clearly provided exemption of motor-boats, including fish boats. Hoopes K. Freeman, however, had something to say about the

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POLICE REPORT FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Twenty-five Cases in Police Court and Fines Totalled \$283

City police receipts during the month of November totalled \$340, including \$283 collected in fines and \$57 from keep of provincial prisoners according to report of Chief Vickers submitted at the regular monthly meeting of the police commission yesterday afternoon. There were 25 cases in police court resulting in 15 convictions, one withdrawn, seven dismissed and two pending.

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ing. There were eight cases under the Government Liquor Act and one drug case. The payroll for the month totalled \$818.68.

Mayor Newton inquired if Elizabeth Biddlecombs and May Luger, recently released on appeal after having been sentenced for liquor selling, had returned to town and was told by the chief that they had not. "If so they should be well watched," said His Worship. "The city can very well get along without them."

Ten Years Ago in Prince Rupert

December 14, 1913. Fearfully mutilated with throat cut and horrible stabs about the face, back and neck, the body of a rancher named Kennell has been found on the trail between Kispitox and Glen Vowell near Hazelton. The police are now endeavoring to locate the murderer.

An ante-election campaign battle of letters in the press is waging between Mayor Pattullo and Ex-Ald. D. W. Morrissey.

Rev. F. W. Kerr believes that the segregated district should be abolished. Proper vigilance would prevent the spread of social evil over the city, he maintains.

Roy C. Wright, traveller for the Brandam-Henderson Paint Co., arrived on the Venture this morning from Vancouver.