

In the Letter Box

CHEER UP!

Editor, Daily News.

Returning after an absence of a few months one is struck by the prevailing depression, verging in some cases almost on despondency, that at present exists in Prince Rupert.

When conditions are analysed it does not seem that sound reasons can be advanced in support of this gloomy outlook. It seems to be more or less a "state of mind" engendered, perhaps, by comparative "hard times," resulting from some decrease in population and other temporary and seasonal causes, but this "state of mind" is, I believe, fostered and made worse by persistent exchange of depressing comments on the present and gloomy forecasts on the future, whenever citizens meet. It is a disease passed on from one to the other and becomes more "catching" because no precautions are taken against it. The precaution indicated to combat this germ is—the avoidance of gloom. Cheer up!

"Rupert," in prize-winning speech, has often been knocked down.

But "Rupert" never has been and cannot be knocked out. There is something in intrinsic merit—a fundamentally sound economic basis—that has enabled this place to withstand all blows and come up smiling, aggressively advancing a bit after each one.

Carrying on the metaphor, Rupert has been kept out of the champion class not because it lacks "punch" and real worth, but because rivalry, selfishness and, particularly, ignorance of its strength have combined to keep it "outside the ring."

Cheer Up

The best is yet to come and it is coming sooner than we now expect. What if we have a temporary decrease in population? Wasn't that to be expected and didn't we discount it in advance? We knew the increase was due to an industry that was but temporary and that the workers and their families must find when this employment ceased! But we have merely halted, and we will go on.

Emmerson said, in effect, that if you make a good thing or have a good thing, the world will make a pathway to your door. Well, we have many good things. Prince Rupert is the ruler of a big northern principality that is tremendously rich in natural resources; and "royalties" must pay tribute because the "Prince" has command of all trafficking in these resources.

Untold Wealth

Fishing, mining, lumbering—untold wealth being and about to be further exploited are all within the principality—the last great West—and to which capital, that is ever seeking the development of promising resources, must inevitably come.

One that will come and come soon is the pulp industry. It is bound to come here because this is the most logical and economical place in B.C. for the supply of raw material that is bountifully available and cheaply obtainable, either by water haul or by rail haul for delivery to a mill that can have a railroad in its back yard that will convey the manufactured product to eastern markets at minimum costs.

This last is one particular advantage that a mill here will have over other B.C. mills, and it will have equal facilities for loading shipments for southern or trans-Pacific ports.

We learn that eastern sources of pulp supply both in U.S. and Canada are fast dwindling. Northern B.C. has unlimited pulp material and, for the reasons named, Prince Rupert is the situation for the establishment of a pulp mill that could fear no rivalry in low production and marketing costs.

Mill Here Soon

It is fairly certain that a pulp and paper mill will be in operation here in the not distant future. When this happens it will give our city an impetus that will, with the increasing development of other resources, carry us on to the fulfillment of the prosperity that our long wait and faith have so well deserved.

H. S. WALLACE.

A report from the Utilities Committee recommending the placing of a street light on Sixth Avenue West in front of the Methodist church was adopted by the city council last night.

Wolf Man Pays Visit to Alaska Instructs Trappers and Tells of Depredations by Coyotes

Do you know that wolves have communication centers and runways—regular beats, usually keeping to the most open sections of their range? This is the great secret which has made scientific methods of trapping wolves vastly more effective than those that have been used heretofore by the average trapper, so that a knowledge of these runways—as well as a general knowledge of the animals themselves—is the first step that must be taken in securing wolf control, according to J. L. Ligon, the "wolf man" recently sent to Alaska by the U.S. biological survey.

who, after spending three months studying conditions in the southeastern section, has returned home.

Wolves seek in rough timbered sections, food and protection from man. Almost all animals have runways, but the wolf seeks his in the more open sections as his range is very extensive and he travels a great deal. Travel, indeed, is a large part of the wolf's business. He pursues a circuitous route, in his own chosen path—when instinct urges him to leave his feed-run and seek communication with others of his species stopping occasionally to feed and perhaps taking ten days or more to complete his beat.

Scientific Methods

Scientific methods of trapping wolves include the use of both scent and blind settings, the latter placed in exclusive runways, and both equally effective. Scientific trapping of wolves probably requires more experience and skill than in taking any other wild animal, not only on account of his cunning but also because his range is so great.

Scent bait is made from certain portions of wild animals of that particular species. Wolf hunters have worked out a method of making bait from these portions of a wolf, for instance, that lures his brother wolves to the spot where it is placed about a runway.

While scent bait and blind settings are most successful, all who have tried the difficult art of wolf trapping are aware that success even by these methods requires skill in their execution.

One great advantage in using the scientific methods for trapping wolves is that it would make unnecessary the killing of game animals for bait, as meat is never used. Perhaps few people realize the extent of the cost, directly and indirectly, of supplying with food the hundreds of wolves prowling about the islands and adjacent mainland of Southeastern Alaska.

Wolves feed principally upon deer, which seems to be their natural food in this part of the

country. It is only when this food is scarce that they turn their attention to other food, such as fish, beaver, marten and other fur bearers.

During the months of January and February wolves make the greatest depredations upon deer. At this time crust usually forms over the top of the deep snow, and, when pursued by the hungry wolf, the frightened deer who has been running lightly over the snow, commences to jump, and breaking through, is retarded in her flight so as to fall an easy victim to the wolf, who—more wary—never breaks through the crust.

Blind settings are an equally effective means of trapping wolves, a trap with teeth in the jaws being the best for Alaska on account of the prevailing characteristics of the ground, surface, such as moss and mud, which do not interfere with its free action. These traps are hidden in the runways.

On Zerambo Island

Recently Mr. Ligon trapped seven wolves on Zerambo Island. These included five black ones and two grey ones. The black ones are more ferocious than the greys but are of the same species, Mr. Ligon thinks. In all he trapped eighteen wolves, although catching them was only incidental to his work of determining if the scientific methods that have been employed successfully in other parts of the country would be also applicable to Alaska.

Although conditions are quite different here, M. Ligon has proven that they can be used quite as effectively and considers that it would be a comparatively easy matter to exterminate wolves on the islands. However, the mainland offers a more serious problem because of the vastness of the infestation and the difficulties in travelling over so great an area.

In order to promote the fur industry it is imperative that first the wolf be exterminated. It is nothing less than disastrous, Mr. Ligon declares, to allow the wolf to remain in a country among whose chief assets are its game and fur bearers.

In the case of the promising new industry of blue fox farming, the wolf will doubtless prove a great menace, he says, as, if it does not prey upon them for food, it will invade the fur farms and seriously interfere with foxes either by killing them or driving them off the islands.

Coyote Menace Also

"It is my prediction," Mr. Ligon stated, "that in the near future this condition will be more serious unless the most stringent methods are employed to exterminate coyotes, as they have moved from the interior and pushed well down to the coast

of Southeastern Alaska. These aggressive wanderers are even entering into tide water or streams.

In showing the superior advantages of scientific methods, Mr. Ligon explained, "no criticism of local trappers is intended, the winter in the Northland, the coyote is little less destructive to deer than his larger brother, the timber wolf. In recent years, he ate with Alaskans and increase has made his appearance on the

use."

During the three months he has spent in Alaska Mr. Ligon has instructed trappers in scientific methods as fully as so limited a time allowed. A detailed report of his work will be available in about a month. He thinks that steps should be taken at once for wolf control in Southeastern Alaska.

SMOKE OGDEN'S CUT PLUG

"I WANT"

How often the average individual expresses these words without having the least idea in the world how to go about getting that "want" gratified

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