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The Admiral of the Mosquito fleet is in Yuletide humor and has expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the volume of business done in waterfront circles taking into account the inclement weather conditions encountered recently. The old man says it must not be forgotten that at this season of the year the halibut business slows down greatly as the Canadian branch of the fishing fleet takes a very small part in fishing activities, the majority of the Canuck skippers having tied up their boats for annual overhaul work. This Christmas practically all the Canadian fishermen will be in port to spend the holidays with their loved ones and a number of the American crews have already left for the south on holiday bent. The halibut business will not get back into regular stride until after the New Year when the Canadian boats of the fleet will be hitting out for the high spots again and the American schooners, now in the south, join the northern flotilla. During the week a great number of outlying boats have put into port to enable their skippers and crews to spend the Christmas season in the city. Among the boats putting in for this reason are various craft which have been out on trapping and logging expeditions and these have been augmented by several small squadrons of native vessels. With the gathering together of the many boats the home base has taken on a real holiday air and the Christmas spirit is evident in nautical circles. The halibut arrivals have been well up to the average this week. The big schooners were due and several of them came in to schedule. On Wednesday and Thursday the arrivals took a jump when eight Americans landed 374,000 lbs. While prices remained firm early in the week, when landings were short, they took a downward trend on Thursday consequent upon the amount of halibut brought in. The American schooner Scandia arrived in port yesterday wih 110,000 lbs. of halibut constituting the largest independent catch landed at this port for years past.

A Happy Christmas

The Admiral of the Mosquito fleet and his merry men comprising the high boot squad, take this opportunity to wish the many readers of Waterfront Whiffs a very Happy Christmas. The nauticals look forward with great confidence to increased business in the New Year and early activity is foretold among the cannery men this coming season.

Boat Yard Busy

The good Canadian boat Eagle Capt. Red Pierce, is nearing completion on the N. M. McLean ways where she has been thoroughly overhauled and recaulked. This boat of many brilliant exploits is looking like a million dollar craft and has been gaily painted in white with green trimmings. It is expected the Eagle will be off the ways and on the fishing job again early in the New Year. The Suga yards are full to capacity. A new trolling hull is being laid down and the Canadian halibut schooner Brandf has just completed a winter overhaul there.

Bone Yark Creek Active

Considerable small boat building is being enacted in Bone Yard Creek. Capt. Khort of "Just It" fame, is busy building a new rowboat and a scow is to be built in the near future suitable for placing a house and kitchen thereon. The latter is to be used in connecion with logging activities around the Wark Canal district.

Fish Business

During the week 570,000 lbs. of halibut has been marketed on the Fish Exchange. Americans were high at 18.5c and 10.5c, low at 13.1c and 9c. The arrivals were Tahoma, Majestic, Eagle, Alten, Venus, Panama, Yakatat, Gladstone, National, President and Scandia.

Doc Clapperton, who has been a patient in the General Hospital for the past two weeks, has completely recovered from his indisposition and is once more back at the wheel at the Provincial dock.

W. & F. Out Hunting

The Canadian schooner W. & F., Capt. Geo. Cook, left port on Friday night last with a party of local business and professional celebrities to indulge in a little last minute hunt in the vicinity of Porcher Island. The party included Doctor L. W. Kergin, Milton Gonzales, Jim Burns and N. M. McLean. The bag of game included ducks and geese and a very enjoyable time was spent by all. Doc proved himself an expert with the rifle and gave several lessons to his fellow hunters in the art of aiming and dropping the game. One of the members of the party after giving a lecture on scouting, lost himself by mistake, and was eventually located taking forty winks under a nice dry tree. The searchers might have been looking for the lost one yet but for the fact that a herd of deer which had surrounded the sleeper attracted the party and were found to be busily engaged nibbling at his whiskers when they came upon the scene. The W. & F. returned to port safe and sound on Sunday night.

Big Engine for Schooner

According to the Pacific Fisherman the American schooner Seattle, of the Pacific coast fleet will have the biggest engine installed in her that has ever been put in a halibut boat. The installation will be made about the middle of January at Seattle. An order has been placed for a 165 h.p. Enterprise Diesel, which is expected to give her greater speed than any vessel now fishing halibut. The idea has been steadily gaining ground among the American vessel owners that it is a good policy to have plenty of reserve power so that the boat can be speeded up in emergencies without overloading the engine. The increased speed will also give her more days of fishing on the distant banks. The Seattle is skippered by H. Neflin, and brought in 58,000 pounds of halibut on December 10. She is expected to arrive in port early in the coming week en route to her home port.

The Pacific Fisherman states that Magnus Hansen, of Juneau, is having a halibut boat built in Tacoma. The boat will be a 68 footer and will be fittde witn a 100 h.p. Enterprise Diesel engine.

The power boat Shawatlans left port on Monday for Surf Inlet.

Namu All Set

The speed cater Namu, owned and skippered by Tommy McMeekin, is at last all set so far as the engine part of the business is concerned. The propeller is propelled by an 8-10 h.p. Palmer engine which had evidently not been properly reared. However, her skipper put the engine in a mechanical college for a few days and the results of the training have been very marked and satisfactory. The big trouble with the engine now is to get it stopped after it has once started. Judging from accounts of speed performances the Namu should prove a formidable rival to any old speed boat that ever happens to slide into port. In fact, it would save a lot of trouble if the trustees of the local speed cup handed the cup over to Tommy right now.

Fleet Rat Catcher

A well deserved promotion took place in the local fleet during the week. Sandy Finlayson, assistant commodore of the P.R. Yacht Club, has been promoted to the post of official rat catcher. Sandy earned the promotion by catching a monster rat. If the trap had not been screwed down to the floor it is doubtful whether the rat would ever have been held. The rodent was a beauty and measured umpteen inches from he tip of its nose to the tip of its tail. If it had been caught alive and lightly shod there is not the slightest doubt but that Sandy could have made a lot of money riding it in races. As it is, however, the skin will be properly treated and the assistant commodore will sport a fur coat during the winter evenings.

Alta Going Out

Capt. Bolliver, of the good ship Alta, is busy preparing his traps and other necessary contraptions in readiness for a dash to the trapping grounds on Dundas Island. It is his aim to have everything in readiness to enable him to pull out before Christmas.

The launch Narbethong, skipper Hoomes K. Freeman, was up as far as Port Simpson during the week on a mystery trip.

The power boat Sadie, Capt. Pete Colligan, is leaving port shortly on a logging expedition on Banks Island. Capt. Prescott will accompany him.

Halibut Boat Building

Capt. Alex. Wilie, of Seal Cove, is busily engaged upon the construction of a new halibut boat and hopes to have it completed early in the New Year. Prior to taking up fishing Alex was engaged in putting the true aim into rifles and even now is considered to be one of the deadest shots on Kaien Island. The story goes that during the past summer Alex went over to the McNichol Creek ranges and blew all the bullseyes out of the targets much to the consternation of the regular users of the range. If you should chance to go over that way and see four red flags just retire because that denotes that Alex is on the job with his rifle and he might resent an interruption.

Mystic Doings

The grandeur of the Mystic Shrine banquets and the initiations of the novices were beyond description, according to Ralph LePine, manager of the Big Bay Lumber Company, who recently

(Continued on page six)

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