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Doings of the Mosquito Fleet which is the chief source of Prince Rupert's prosperity

Halibut landings during the past week have come back with a decided wallop, according to the admiral of the Mosquito fleet, who is in a very optimistic humor as to the future good business prospects for the nauticals. The weather man has been treating the deep sea fishing ground to a good brand of weather which has permitted the carrying on of remunerative fishing. The landings have been marked by the arrival of several Canadian schooners while the Americans have been arriving in force. Halibut arrivals on Monday totalled 238,000 pounds, the heaviest for several weeks past. The combined landings for Tuesday and Wednesday totalled 319,900 pounds. The increase has however brought down the prices for both Canadian and American first and second class fish, but not to any appreciable extent. On Thursday the landings dropped somewhat when three American schooners marketed 34,000 lbs. of halibut and consequently prices jumped a few points. Those engaged in the fish business predict heavier and more consistent arrivals in future. There is increasing activity among the boats comprising the local halibut fleet. Several boats which have been tied up for the winter months, have been overhauled and are leaving for the high spots to engage in the halibut fishing during the ensuing season. The N. M. McLean yards are full to capacity and all the available ways around Cow Bay and Bone Yard Creek are occupied by Canadian schooners overhauling in readiness for the first dash of the season to the deep sea fishing grounds.

**Dorreen Boat Shaping**  
The new \$18,000 Canadian fishing schooner, which is being built by the Dorreen Brothers on the N. M. McLean ways, is rapidly taking shape and will be out on her trial trip early in March. This schooner is the largest fishing boat to be built in Prince Rupert and will be able to compete with her American sisters in the heavier weather. The boat measures 60 feet long by a 14 foot 6 inch beam and is fitted with a 65 horse power Atlas-Imperial full Diesel engine which will give the boat a speed of between 8 and 9 knots per hour. The decks are being caulked and the water and fuel tanks installed. The engine has been laid on her bed and the boat will be taken on to the dry dock shortly for the completion of the machinery installation. A power winch is also to be installed. The Dorreen schooner will carry a crew of seven men when on the fishing banks. The entire construction of the boat has been carried out by her owners Messrs. Henry, Leo and Ernie Dorreen assisted by mechanics J. J. Gillis and Stanley and Peter Dorreen.

**Metlakatla Makes Merry**  
The Sailors, Soldiers and Niggers, social factions of Metlakatla, joined forces on Tuesday night and put on one of the greatest dances of the times in the Metlakatla Hall to mark the completion and opening of the new Dominion government waterworks at that point. From accounts to hand the dance was

gorgeous in its decorative setting and every man, woman and child in the town was on hand to show their appreciation of the function. In addition to the residents of Metlakatla a number of visitors turned up from Port Simpson and other native points. The music furnished was excellent and the eats surpassed the most sanguine expectations of those present. The dance was voted by all those fortunate enough to attend to have been the most successful function ever staged in that town, and that is saying a great deal.

### Broke Clutch

Capt. Jack Prescott had the misfortune to break the clutch of his newly acquired craft the Kyax during the week. Jack wanted to overhaul this vital part of the works and in getting the pieces of machinery out it began to act a little awkward. Not to be beaten the skipper grabbed a sledge hammer and quickly fixed it with a few deft strokes.

### Jack Toner's Stunt

Our old friend Jack Toner has been busily engaged for some time past giving the dry dock the benefit of his mechanical knowledge and working around his floating home, situated on Seal Cove waters, during the evenings. Jack is turning his floating home into a travelling hotel, according to the fleet secret service, which will be moved around the island as the work of constructing the new provincial government road progresses. The floating hotel will be fixed up with all the most modern conveniences and meals a la carte and table d'hôte will be served at all hours. The management of the new movable hotel will be in a position to supply a long felt want to the travelling public in that it will be able to take the hotel to the visitors if necessary. The convenience will doubtless be appreciated by those tourists who happen to get stuck when travelling around the island either by car or boat. It is understood that colored rockets will be supplied at station posts along the road, some 1,000 yards apart, which may be fired in the air by stranded tourists to call the attention of the hotel management to the fact that eats are required. The hotel will thereupon quickly answer to the summons and steaming clam chowder will be forthcoming "foot sweet."

Skipper John Field is contemplating the building of a new logging boat. While definite plans have not yet been decided upon, the boat when built, will embody all the latest logging devices and will be used by her owner in connection with logging contracts secured in the Kitimaat district.

Frank Lundy arrived in port from Pitt Island during the week with a nice little cargo of furs. The catch included some fine specimens of mink and martin. Upon disposing of his catch locally Frank hit out for the happy hunting grounds again after taking on supplies for the inner man.

During the week 622,900 pounds of halibut has been marketed on the Fish Exchange. Americans were high at 17.6c and 9.5c and low at 13.6c and 8c. Canadians were high at 17.1c and 9c and low at 14.4c and 8c. The arrivals were: Tom and Al, Sitka, Helgeland, Katalla, Woodrow, Livingstone, Pair of Jacks, Evolution, Senator, Majestic, Lincoln, Republic, Annie Tuck, Reveille, Ruth, Imperial, Reliance, Constitution, Democrat, Cape Spencer, Lumen, Westford, Pioneer, Reliance, North, M. M. Christopher, Hippo.

### Hughes Lost Laurels

The news of the crib prowess of Bill Hughes, who has won all sorts of turkey and other crib trophies locally, has evidently travelled far and wide. It was, therefore, no surprise to learn that J. E. Miller, inspector of customs for British Columbia, who arrived in the city recently on departmental business, had heard about the wonderful crib propensities of Bill. Now Mr. Miller has an enviable reputation throughout the Dominion as a crib player, and being a man who is always willing to learn, he thought it would perhaps be well to try his luck with Bill at a little friendly game of fifteens and thereby pick up a few pointers to take back home with him. It was soon arranged for the two crib wizards to get together and a large crowd of paste board shufflers gathered around last Saturday night to watch the sparks fly. A contract was signed between the contestants for the best out of

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twelve games and before the ink was dry on the respective signatures the starting gun was fired. Bill led off at a merry clip winning the first three games and his local admirers were jubilant. However, Mr. Miller was watching points too and evidently thought it was high time to open up and show a little speed. The anxiety of Bill's backers may be imagined when his opponent annexed the next seven straight games at a speed which was hardly to be believed unless seen. That put the lid on the contest and the local cribbists have decided there is still a lot to be learned about the game.

The schooner Cayceon, Capt. Jim Morrison, which has been thoroughly overhauled during the past two months, will shortly be ready for the deep sea fishing grounds. The Cayceon will leave port on February 7.

The fishing schooner Eagle, which recently came off the McLean ways after having undergone re-caulking and other repair work, left for the high spots early in the week on her first trip of the season.

The Canadian schooner White Lilly, Capt. Wall, is on the Ward ways for general overhaul.

### Herb's Strategy

Waterfront happenings were considerably enlivened early in the week when Herb Hampton, disguised as a sailor, paid an official visit to welcome Billy Miller, the mayor of Porcher from his launch Asawalagit. The latter was loudly cheered upon his connecting with terra firma. Herb read a very tasty bill of fare to the mayor as an address of welcome. This led to a conversation between the receiver and the received on the question of eats. During the confab it struck Herb that his larder at home could do with a little uplift in the way of life's necessities and seeing the launch loaded with eggs, live chicken and halibut it struck him that the oracle might be worked by introducing a little strategy into the thing. Billy was delighted to display the Porcher Island farm produce to the onlookers and, judging from the moist mouths around, it had the desired effect. Herb thereupon started the strategy and drew Bill into an argument. Herb claimed that Bill wasn't a good sport and this Bill flatly denied of course. At this point it is perhaps best to give the story of the argument in their own words. "Well," said Herb, "if you are such a good sport I'll toss you for a box of eggs, a live chicken and a halibut. If I win the toss the goods are mine and if you win the toss they are not yours." "It's a go" said Bill. In the excitement Bill did not get the drift of the meaning of the bet and consequently lost the toss. Herb went on his way rejoicing with the box of eggs gaily balanced on his dome. The mayor of Porcher says he'll work the same line of betting strategy when he returns home.

Skipper Art Oswald is busy giving the engine of his newly acquired craft, the Toodie, the once over preparatory to leaving port on his first fishing expedition of the season.

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