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## Waterfront Whiffs

Activity on Waterfront Becoming Intensive; Preparations for Opening of Halibut Season; Herring Seining in Progress

Machine shops and other services to the fishing fleet along the Prince Rupert waterfront state that business this January was far ahead of the volume a year ago. The earliest start in four years has been made this season in work preparatory to the opening of the annual fishing activity. Work, so far, has been pretty well concentrated in getting the halibut fleet ready for action. Next month work will be started on the many vessels of the salmon fleet, good level throughout the year. Money among the fishermen just now is not very free, but with prospects for high prices for halibut and probably for salmon, the coming season should be productive of profitable fishing which will, in some measure, compensate for the past season or so that have not been so good. All signs point to the industry out of Prince Rupert being attended with considerable prosperity this year.

Harry Lowe, head of the Imperial Machine Works, reports that he has had no less than 13 road engine jobs since the first of the year. Some of these amounted to complete overhaul. Business in his line has been fair in advance of last year, he states.

It is probably fortunate for the halibut industry that the influenza epidemic, now on the decline, struck the northwest at the close of the fishing season, observes the Pacific Fisherman. If it had come on earlier, when the vessels were at sea most of the time, the consequences might have been serious. As it is, a good many of the vessel owners, skippers and fishermen have been laid up at various times during the past month, but, being in port, they were able to get proper attention and the comforts of home, and no fatalities have been reported. By the time the new season opens the epidemic will, no doubt, be well over.

### Dorothy on Banks

After having spent the holiday season at Seattle, the schooner Dorothy, Capt. Ole Hvatum, under charter to the International Fisheries Commission, is again on the halibut grounds engaged in research work. Norman L. Freeman, local representative of the commission, is one of the scientists working on the vessel. The present trip will be devoted largely to the use of silk nets for gathering halibut eggs in order to check up on the drift of eggs and larvae. Observations will be taken of the direction and velocity of currents by which the eggs and larvae are carried, and, if possible, some tagging will be done to determine the travel of the adult fish. Later in the season it is planned to give more attention to tagging and racial studies and it is hoped the expedition will be able to get into the Bering Sea to make observations as to rate of growth, racial characteristics, etc., of the halibut in those waters.

According to gossip around Seattle, one of the American halibut boat owners, who sold his vessel last spring, has been developing plans for a super-halibut schooner of ultra-modern type, ideas for which seem to have been borrowed from recent developments in the California tuna fleet as well as in other fisheries. The idea is to rebuild an all-steel vessel of something like 120 feet in length with a diesel engine of about 350 horsepower and designed to travel at somewhere between 15 and 20 knots. It is proposed to have large fully-insulated fish holds with refrigerating machinery of ample capacity and to drive all pumps, deck machinery, etc., by electricity. Such a boat might be used all the year around through going south to fish tuna while the halibut season is closed. Cost of construction of such a vessel would make the venture somewhat of a gamble.

The well known American halibut schooner Radio, Capt. Gus Angelsen, has returned to her home port at Ketchikan after having spent several weeks at Seattle undergoing a complete overhaul.

With frozen stocks low, it is being generally predicted that halibut prices during the coming season will be high at the opening and will probably remain at a

level throughout the season. Last week-end, hunting parties included that with Jack Lindsay on the Irene L., whose members brought home a few ducks from the vicinity of Metlakatla Bar and Dave Stuart and Doc Cade

and who went to Delusion Bay on the

Tseekwa and got a few quackers. George Bryant and Joel Pillsbury made a brief trip on the Harla Thursday afternoon.

Fine weather of late has been attracting a few launch parties to the water. George Bryant had friends out on the Harla last Saturday afternoon.

The crew of the local halibut boat Zapora have arrived from Vancouver and are busy at the dry dock rigging gear. Capt. Lars Voge is due here this weekend from the south with his vessel which will engage in halibut fishing upon the opening of the season. Making only two trips last year, the Zapora spent the most of the 1928 season salmon packing on the West Coast of Vancouver Island and was wintered at Vancouver.

With the first appearance of the run in Port Simpson Harbor on Wednesday morning of this week, herring seining is rapidly getting into swing. An earlier harvest is being taken this year than usual and certain of the salts attribute the condition of things to the exceptionally mild state of the weather this winter. In any case, the run is now on and advantage is already being taken of it.

Capt. Ole Skog with the Azurite was the first local seiner to take herring this season when he caught 200 tons on Wednesday morning. He is continuing seining and the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co. has assigned the packers W. R. Lord and Grier Starrett to bring the fish to the plant for storage as halibut bait.

Last night the Gammon & Watt sloop Zenardi, under personal command of Capt. Gammon, left for Port Simpson to start fishing operations. This vessel will fish for the Rupert Marine Products Ltd. which is reopening its reduction plant at Tucks Inlet to run herring. R. M. P. boats will engage in packing the fish.

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### Doc Returns

Doc Clapperton is expected to return to port tomorrow afternoon to resume his duties at the Government Wharf after a fortnight's holiday sojourn at Prince George. If it had been summer, Doc would, no doubt, have been as brown as a berry but, because it's winter, it does not necessarily follow that he is as white as a snowflake or polar bear. A little flatulence of the money bags will undoubtedly be Doc's only ailment by the time he returns home.

After a two weeks' bout with the flu, part of which time, he spent in hospital, Shef Thomson was able to resume his duties at the Prince Rupert Yacht & Rowing Club at the first of the week. His many friends were glad to see him back.

Some indignation is reported to have been expressed at Prince Rupert at the decision of the provincial government to enforce collection of storage fees on nets placed in the loft of its deck during the winter for safe-keeping. The charge was formerly imposed but, during recent years, it has been allowed to drop and, of course, its resumption does not prove popular. Wharfinger George Smith stated that, it is on explicit instructions from Victoria B. C. headquarters that collections are being resumed. He denied that nets have been withheld from any one until the fee had been paid. No such occasion has yet arisen. Fishermen are now busy in the wharf loft rigging up the gear in preparation for the coming season.

### Seattle Halibut Fleet

February 5 is the date selected by most of the vessels of the big Seattle halibut fleet to leave Puget Sound in anticipation of the opening of the 1929 fishing season states M. F. Nickerson, manager of F. E. Hunt Ltd., who returned to the city this week from a business trip south. With a supply of fresh bait offering here, it is expected that a number of the American boats will

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