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THE DAILY NEWS  
PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Thursday, Dec. 4, 1930

HALIBUT TREATY

The halibut treaty which is now before the United States Senate after having passed the Canadian Parliament is the result of a number of years of investigation and is the second definite effort toward conserving the halibut fisheries. Efforts are being made to defeat it by those who care only for the present but have no regard whatever for the future of the industry.

While recognizing the difficulty of the situation, it looks as if the only thing to do now is to take such steps as will tend to make the halibut fishing a remunerative industry, even if it should be slightly less remunerative just at present.

TAKING KEEN INTEREST

The report of the meeting of the fishermen with the deputy minister of fisheries indicates that the fishermen are taking a keen interest in their own calling and through their organization are able to make their influence felt at Ottawa. It is to be hoped that this interest will continue. It is only by being continually alert and by keeping in close touch with the authorities that they can expect to properly protect their own interests. The canners will always look after themselves.

The suggestion of alertness does not necessarily mean opposition. As the years advance there will develop a spirit of co-operation between canners and fishermen, such as is not seen today. There will be a spirit of give and take on both sides. It will be recognized that without successful canneries the fishermen will be unable to market their fish and the industry will also recognize that without good fishermen they cannot carry on. Each should make money and benefit from the activities of the other.

Deputy Minister of Fisheries Is Speaker at Trade Gathering

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ishness of placing all the eggs in one basket. At the present time, the only marketable fish was halibut and salmon and the halibut was being slowly depleted. Conservation was being asked. He suggested that greater attention should be given other kinds of fish. He spoke of a campaign put on in England to interest the public in fish which was very effective. If a market was developed fishermen might take other kinds of fish not marketable now and sell them here. He hoped Mr. Found on his return to Ottawa would recommend the publicity campaign which had already been proposed.

George Busby spoke very briefly, congratulating Mr. Found on the idea of making regular visits to study conditions on the ground. John Morrison told of objections to the proposed treaty. If areas were set aside and opened for brief periods only, American boats would go in there in large numbers and clean up the fish in a short time and Canadian boats would then find the supply cut off as they would have to go long distances

for their fish if Hecate Straits were closed to fishing. Many of the Canadian boats were too small to visit the western banks.

Mr. Morrison suggested that the sale of small halibut should be prohibited. Some boats made a practice of fishing for small fish and the way to stop it was to refuse them a market. He believed the present close season should be continued but would make it effective commencing November 1.

Col. Nicholls congratulated Mr. Found on being now the deputy head of a department with a responsible minister and a department all their own. He took it that the chief duty of the department was conservation. This called for a great deal of tact and tolerance.

**Makes Proposal**  
Col. Nicholls then made a proposal to the department. He mentioned the work being done at the experimental station for the purpose of enabling people to use fish

oil in their painting, and to feed their babies on fish oil to give them the necessary vitamins. For more immediate results he suggested that, as there was something like three million pounds of fish being culled each year, and that some boats seldom had any culls while others had a large number, there must be some condition other than those already suggested to account for the large wastage. Many boats would be out 14 days and bring in no culls. He

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thought lack of knowledge responsible for present conditions. He knew of one man who had a bad reputation for the condition of his fish, who saw what others were doing and changed his ways so that he had changed his reputation. He urged that a man be appointed to educate the fishermen. This would mean dollars to fishermen and dealers.

Mr. Brocklesby told of the difficulties in their department. Their work was necessarily slow as they had foundation work to do before they could proceed. They had done a good deal of work on the discoloration of fish and tenders had now been asked for a vessel suited for the purpose with which they could continue their investigation.

Other branches of the fishing industry were asking aid besides the halibut industry and they were working on pilchard oils. That industry was languishing through the drop in prices. Formerly they were obtaining 45c. a gallon for their oil but today it was selling at 8 cents and it cost from 19 to 20 cents to produce. All the operators were taking tremendous losses and if the condition continued they would have to go out of business.

G. P. Tinker welcomed Mr. Found on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. G. W. Nickerson championed the Nova Scotia fisheries about which some remarks had been made. He supported the position taken by Mr. Morrison in regard to restricting the quantity of fish to be taken from any one area. This year the halibut sold at an average of 9 cents a pound. He had a boat in the early years of the industry when the highest price paid was four cents and they made money. He suggested the department might busy itself in securing a reduction in the cost of operating.

Mr. Found then spoke apologizing for the absence of the minister of fisheries but stating that he would be in Prince Rupert next summer and would spend some time in the city. H. E. Pawson, assistant Commercial manager of the Power Corporation of Canada, who has been here this week in connection with the opening of the new hydro-electric plant here, will sail on the Prince George tonight for Vancouver enroute back to his headquarters in Montreal.