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WATERFRONT WHIFFS

Much Ice in Skeena River; Old Fraser River Boat Coming North; Halibut Boat Changes Hands

There is more ice in the Skeena River near its mouth just now than there has been for several years, navigators report. Some of the ice sheets are of tremendous size, varying in thickness from ten inches to almost ten feet where it has piled up, and, during the past week, it was impossible to get higher up than Port Essington, the ice extending the full width of the river. The Ecstall River, near its mouth, is completely frozen over, the ice going up and down with the tides. Even the slough is full of ice above Inverness. The condition, indeed, is somewhat unusual and has been accentuated by the cold snap of the past week.

The Pacific Salvage Co.'s power vessel Billmor, Capt. Lorne Peck, laden with dynamite and supplies for the operations of the Power Corporation of Canada on the Ecstall River and also having a party of men on board, was unable to reach her destination on Wednesday and had to return. Another attempt was to be made later in the week, but it was not expected it would be attended with any more success.

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Having in tow an old dismantled Fraser River steamer, 135 feet long and built of steel, for delivery to the Chatham Sound Packing Co.'s cannery at Humpback Bay, Porcher Island, the Pacific Salvage Co.'s local power tug Salvage Princess left Vancouver on Wednesday of this week on her return to Prince Rupert after having been in the south since late in December. The old river boat will be used by the cannery company as a camp for gillnetters on the Skeena River during the salmon fishing season. The Salvage Princess, with Capt. Frank Tyler in command, is expected to arrive here by the end of next week.

Skipper Norman Brodhurst, foreman for the Pacific Salvage Co., suffered a rather painful accident on Tuesday of this week as a result of which he is laid up for a few days. He was thawing a steel tar barrel with a blow torch when the barrel exploded and the end was blown out. His face was lascerated and blackened up, the injuries, happily, proving less serious than might have been the case had he been standing at the end of the barrel. He was taken to the hospital for dressing of the injuries, after which he was able to proceed to his home.

Salt Lake Ice

Providing the cold snap continues, a sheet of ice on the Salt Lake, across the harbor, is expected to be ready for use of skaters by tonight or tomorrow. The original ice surface on the lake having been spoiled by the heavy snow, the Pacific Salvage Co. has had men at work this week flooding it anew with fresh water. The gate of the dam was taken out and the water allowed to fall. Then it was flooded again from the creek above with the fresh water over the old ice. The company intended to advertise sailing hours of boats for the lake.

Having had to break the ice in front of it all the way into the bay, the Pacific Salvage Co.'s power vessel Pachena, Capt. Charlie Larkin, had a rather strenuous time of it on Thursday of this week getting into Cloyah Bay with a load of supplies for the Power Corporation of Canada's transmission line clearing gang there. The ice in the bay was from two to four inches in thickness. Rod McLeod is foreman in charge of the clearing gang at Cloyah.

The newly opened Pacific Machine Works on the Pacific Salvage Co. dock, which specializes in the installation of Rap (Norwegian) semi-diesel engines with Arnt Solheim in charge, is doing a flourishing business, it is reported. The staff has already been increased to five men. In addition to the installations, considerable general engine repair and overhauling work is also being carried on from the shop.

Excavation work, involving considerable blasting, is still proceeding on the site of the new annex to the Prince Rupert Fisheries Experimental Station at the foot of McBride Street and it will be some time yet before actual construction work will be ready to be proceeded with by the contractors, Mitchell & Currie. There is a good deal of rock work to be done which takes time.

This week saw the return to their duties after the Christmas and New Year vacation of all the members of the staff of the Prince Rupert Fisheries Experimental Station with the exception of the director, D. B. Finn, who, after spending the holidays at his home in Vancouver is now in Ottawa attending the annual meeting of the Biological Board of Canada. He is expected to return to the station toward the end of the present month. John Dybhavn, manager of the Royal Fish Co. and Pacific Coast director of the board, is also in attendance at the Ottawa meeting.

Norman L. Freeman and John L. Kask, local representatives of the International Fisheries Commission, are still in Vancouver, where they spent the holidays. One or both of them are expected to be back by the end of the month.

In Winter Quarters

The gale early last week sent most of the pleasure boats from the C. N. R. Yacht Club floats to more secure winter quarters. Several of the boats have been taken out of the water for the season. There was but one single boat left at the floats this week.

Two new iron tanks are being installed in Capt. Anskar Wick's local halibut boat R. W. The work is being carried out by the Atlas Boiler Works.

Dr. C. H. Hankinson, his successor in the medical practice here, has taken over Dr. J. A. West's power boat Wylo on the departure of the latter for Vancouver to locate. The Wylo is twenty-two feet long and is equipped with a Universal engine. She was built originally by Capt. F. T. Saunders, former agent here for the Marine Department and now located in Vancouver.

Billy Fulton and party, travelling in L. W. Patmore's power cruiser Mary G., visited Pillsbury Cove last Saturday and took a big bag of twenty-six exceptionally large mallards which somebody is unkind enough to suggest may have strayed from one of the nearby farms. J. H. Pillsbury, after whom the cove was named, also went along and aided in the killing.

George Bryant and party also made a trip on Saturday and bagged a couple of quackers.

The Suga boatbuilding establishment is completing the construction of a 26-foot stock model gillnetter. A 4 h.p. Regal engine, out of another boat, is to be installed in the new vessel.

C. O. Rowe's power cruiser Mipal has been taken out of the water at the Suga yard for a general overhaul.

New Dry Exhaust

A new dry exhaust is being installed in the local halibut boat Bayview by the Star Welding and Machine Shop.

Overhaul of the clutch of the halibut boat Embla, formerly Cedric, has also been carried out at the Star Welding establishment.

Magnus Hveding's new halibut boat Gulvik has been down at the Pacific Machine Works this week for the installation of a gurdy. A 35 h.p. Rap semi-deisel engine has been installed in this boat and is reported to be functioning well. The Gulvik will be already to go immediately the 1930 fishing season opens.

Martin Valderhaug, Prince Rupert fisherman, has let the contract to K. Tsumura, Cow Bay boatbuilder, for the construction of a new 32-foot trolling boat. Work on the new vessel will be commenced shortly. An 8 h.p. Vivian engine has been purchased from the Star Welding & Machine Works for installation in the new boat.

The Star Welding also reports the sale of a 15 h.p. Vivian engine to John Clausen for installation in his fish packer Aina. Delivery of the engine is to be made in February.

The halibut boat Sea Maid, Capt. Henry Doiron, left Prince Rupert on Tuesday for northern waters to engage in black cod fishing. The Sea Maid will deliver her catches under contract to the new cold storage plant which has been established at Victoria. It was estimated that the first trip would take about two weeks' time. The Sea Maid will resume halibut fishing on the opening of the season.

Capt. Jack McLean, owner of the Prince Rupert halibut boat M. A. B., has purchased the Mayflower from Capt. George Cook, who is having a new halibutter built by T. Suehiro, Cow Bay boatbuilder. The hull of the Mayflower is now being almost completely rebuilt at McLean's boatbuilding and the vessel is to be ready for use in fishing by Capt. McLean on the reopening of the season. The Mayflower is 40 feet long and is equipped with a 16 h.p. N. and S. gas engine. The vessel was formerly owned by Capt. J. D. Thurber. Capt. McLean is now advertising the M. A. B. for sale.

Gammon & Watt's seineboat Bertha G. left Prince Rupert on Wednesday to prospect for signs of the first herring run of the season in adjacent waters. The vessel is already to engage in seining as soon as the run appears. Weather was too cold, however, when she left to permit of engaging successfully in fishing.

The freighter Salvor is at the Albert & McCaffery dock this weekend discharging a cargo of Vancouver Island coal.

The waterfront boys are quite well satisfied to leave the question of choosing a mayor this year to their landlubber friends up town. None of the three candidates, with the possible exception of Doc Orme through his sons, have many marine interests, though all are well enough known. The contest, as far as can be judged, would appear to be a rather close one with nobody much surprised if any one of the three should be elected. Now that the new fishermen's floats are about to be constructed and the Cow Bay question has been settled, there is little of direct interest to the waterfront in the municipal field. In the aldermanic arena, however, are some well-known waterfont figures such as J. H. Pillsbury, manager of the Pacific Stevedoring Co.; R. F. Perry, foreman of the railway B. and B. department; George Casey, who has always been known as a champion of the fishermen; George Rudderham of the Imperial Machine Works staff; and Harry Pullen, a pleasure boat owner.

Word is received from the islands that Capt. C. Nelson of Queen Charlotte City is building a new 45-foot fishing boat which will be equipped with a 45 h.p. Atlas Imperial full diesel engine. The boat is scheduled to go into commission on March 1.

From Port Simpson come reports of quite a run of spring salmon in Cunningham's Passage. It is reported that some thirty or forty boats, mostly native, have been fishing this week and that their operations have been attended with good results. In Metlakatla Passage, a spring salmon run is also reported.

Urges Squealers Be Prohibited

At the radio meeting last night R. J. T. Rose suggested that the time had arrived when the government should take action to prevent the use of regenerative sets entirely as they cause a nuisance. Radio had now become so general the people were entitled to more protection. In many other countries the law forbids their use entirely.

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