WATERFRONT

Halibut Fishing to Start Promptly on Time-Herring and Salmon Scarce-J. B. Awaits Action by Underwriters

Halibut vessel owners of both Prince Rupert and Seattle during the past week confirmed the original intention to commence the 1932 season's fishing operations prompt on February 15, the legal date for the opening of the season. The Seattle boat owners, by a close vote, rejected the proposal of the fish buyers to defer the start of fishing until March 1 and the Prince Rupert*

Herring Disappear

fish staying near the bottom and

A crowd of fifty local skaters vis-

ited the Salt Lake last Sunday af-

were taken across the harbor by the

Salmon Are Scarce

Course in Fisheries

boat owners were pretty well com- Motor Boat contains a good deal of pelled to follow suit. It is to be lo- matter of interest to Prince Rugically assumed that the Ketchi- pert and district. An article on kan. Petersburg and Juneau fleets trolling on the British Columbia will also start on February 15. While coast makes considerable mention no great prices for fish are expec- of the Queen Charlotte Islands and ted this year, owing to the general elsewhere in the district. There are weak condition of all food commo- pictures of the Prince Rupert Rowdities, the owners and the fisher-ing and Yacht Club moorage facilmen will be satisfied if they do only ities, of Dryad Point lighthouse a little better than break even for near Bella Bella and of Stikine a start at least. There is some con- River scenery. solation in the fact that almost all lines of fishing supplies are lower in price than last year. The fuel; Owing to the cold weather of the price is still firm, however, but it is past week, there has been a dimulikely a campaign may be launched nition of the herring run at Pearl with a view, if possible, to getting it Harbor near Port Simpson, the down.

away from the reach of the seines. The local halibut boat J. B., Capt. Ole Skog is still at Pearl Harwhich was swept by disastrous fire bor with the Fredelia seining for in the harbor on Thursday after- the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage noon of last week, is now at the Co.'s bait supply. Capt. R. Gammon, floats of the McLean boatbuilding who will seine for the Rupert Marestablishment at Seal Cove await- ine Products reduction plant, left ing decision of the underwriters as for Pearl Harbor with the Zenard to her disposal. It is expected that on Tuesday of this week. the vessel will be declared a total loss by the underwriters although no definite word in this regard has, as yet, been received. The vessel termoon and found the ice there was very badly burned, particular- very fine for the sport. The skaters ly in the forward quarter.

D. B. Finn, who has been reap- Princess which made three trips pointed director of the Prince Ru- during the afternoon. Coffee was pert Fisheries Experimental Sta- served at the lake by the transportion, is expected to arrive here to- tation company. ward the end of April from Cambridge University, England, to take up his duties. His re-appointment is during the past week to the boatto make it here by that time.

about a foot. The 1931-32 bird hunting season came to a very quiet conclusion with the expiry of the month of ing the latter part of the legal sea-|spring salmon during the past | ted by Dr. Neil M. Carter and other | liable to arrest for so doing. son, owing to unfavorable weather week or so and the trollers have biological officers of the Nanaimo and for other reasons, there was been having rather poor pickings, and Prince Rupert stations. Lecvery little hunting activity. There A good deal of hand trolling, as is tures will be supplemented by la- on board, and the government cru'was a good deal doing, however, usual at this time of year, is being boratory experiments. At concluand, from the quantity of geese and The fish are enjoying their usual examined for proficiency. Major J. ducks taken, it was possibly a more popularity on the local fresh fish A. Motherwell, chief supervisor of successful hunting season than us- market. ual. The birds were a good deal more abundant than usual.

The January number of Pacific parts of the province will gather at ence.

Reconciled



bilized government-but there no such thing as freedom of speech there," declared Joan London Malamuth, daughter of the late Jack London ,and her writer husband, Charles Malamuth, with whom she was reconciled in Moscow after they had started divorce proceedings Pacific Salvage Co.'s tug Salvage in California.

and annual meeting which will take place at the Pacific Biological Sta- of the bag. Minor repairs have been made tion, February 15 to 27. Dr. W. A. the whole establishment was raised mercial fishing areas, as well as fisheries, will preside over the annual meeting, February 24, when the spot, anticipating trouble. fishery matters in general will be Federal fishery officers from all discussed at a round table confer-



Nanaimo for the fisheries course

EXPOSING

BAIT ACT In Prince Rupert

M. H. Nickerson Tells About Tempest in Newfoundland and How Irate Fisherman Knocked Former Premier Into Dock

HALIFAX, Feb 5-The manner in which an act of the Newfoundland legislature with respect to restrictions on fish purchases led to what might have become an international "affair" a quarter century ago, and how a premier of the Old Colony was knocked from a wharf into the dock by an iraic fisherman, is described by M. H. Nickerson, veteran student of the Maritime Fisheries' needs, founder of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, in a statement to The Canadian Press.

Writing of his experiences as editor of the Coastguard, a weekly devoted to fishery matters, Mr. Nickerson takes credit for "ex- handled the delicate situation very posing" the intent of the New- adroitly, and the tempest was laid foundland Bait Act, passed some for the time being." 25 years ago by Sir Robert Bond's Mr. Nickerson stood opposed to tive netters to sell herring to Glou- United States' fishermen in 1923. cester vessels as food, and the term "bait act" he says, "was a subterfuge, pure and simple." New York about \$350,000 yearly in those ports interests allied with certain Cana- in the form of payment for bait, dian firms, had inspired the bill in gear and stores, and license fees, their own operations, in Mr. Nick- the west had and still have Prince erson's opinions.

nounced the bait trick in the wider consequence if it continued free Canadian landing stage." sent a dealer and outfitter to explain away certain features of the bill and tone down my resentment The interview only let the cat out | Hotel there.

"Things began to look desperate effective as from April 1 although house of the Pacific Salvage Co. By Clemens, director of the station, Many netters went across to North it is hardly expected he will be able butting in of logs beneath the float, will be host to inspectors of all com- Sydney to ship on the Gloucester herring craft, which called in there on their way down. These netters senior fishery officers. Courses on would stay by the herring fler's salmon canning and herring and and fish for them while in New-Possibly also due to the cold wea- salmon dry-salting will be held un- foundland ports. A new order from January on Sunday night last. Dur- ther, there has been a scarcity of der direction of Dr. Clemens, assis- their home government made them

"The Gloucester Schooner Ralph S. Hall had a few of those refugees ser Fione was sent out to interduring the early part of the season carried out around Port Simpson. sion of the course officers will be cept that vessel and arrest the netters on board—a repetition of the old Trent affair. The old British gunboat Cordelia, then on steamed out with the Fione as did an American gunboat, which had been sent to that coast earlier. The Cordelia reached the schooner first and Commander Anstruther, fair-minded Briton, found the notters and all the schooner crew stripped for action should the F1one interfere. The Captain of the United States cutter came up next. and joining with Commander Anstruther they both persuaded the netters to submit to arrest without resistance. This they did, and were ledged in jail at West Bay. Commander Anstruther duly reported the affair to his home government which, it is said, paid the fines imposed on the netters-\$500 each and they were released.

Fishermen Discontented

'That, however, did not settle the matter and discontent among the fishermen was waxing warmer. The New York magnates were busy ... I kept tabs on them closely. Their Montreal auxiliaries attempted to pull provincial wires for the closing of the Maritime ports to the Gloucester baiters, as was the concession to them under the modus vivendi agreement. Premier Murray refused to 'take a hand in' and that approach was checkmated.

"Then an Imperial Conference was held in London, and the Dominion premiers were in attendance, Sir Robert Bond among them. The bait act flurry was brought up. Commander Anstruther's report was read, and the whole embroglio thoroughly ventilated. Judgment inclined to the side of the netters, and Commander Anstruthers received the thanks of the conference for tactfully tiding over a rather perilous crisis; whereupon Sir Robert Bond quitted the conclave in high dudgeon, only to return home to run an election, and to be knocked off a wharf into the dock by an irate netter, one of the captives on board the Ralph S.

"The British ministry of the day

Twenty Years Ago

February 6, 1912

Ald. W. H. Montgomery, at a meeting of the city council last night, charged Mayor S. M. Newton with individualism in regard to the city's finances. The charge was vigorously denied by the mayor.

The Prince Rupert Club, at its annual meeting last night, elected officers for the year as follows: president, A. J. Morris; vice-president, J. H. McMullin : secretarytreasurer, H. P. Wilson; directors, F. H. Mobley, F. S. Long, A. E. Mcderick, G. R. Naden and Alfred Carss. The membership of the club now stands at 150.

Indoor baseball is proving a popular sport in Prince Rupert this winter. At the Auditorium last night the Pirates beat the Crescents by a score of 31 to 13.

government. The act forbade na- the closing of Nova Scotia ports to | The New England haddockers, he writes, were in the habit of leaving order to procure a clear field for "while the Seattle halibutters in Rupert as a base of operations in At any rate, he writes, "the net- Alaskan waters, landing their fares ters rose in revolt against the bait in that port, and thus keeping in act enforcement, which compelled the near neighborhood of their them to forego the Yankee cash on fishing grounds, bringing in fourdelivery My Coastguard de- fifths of British Columbia's halibut receipt, subject to no license fee, strongest manner, for I foresaw a and making no purchases in their

> A. J. Crawford of Stewart has been a recent visitor in Vancouver. being a guest at the Devonshire



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