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WATERFRONT WHIFFS

Spring Salmon Run Increases—Most of Halibut Boats Out Again—Prominent Cannerymen Visit District

A considerable increase during the past week in the production of the spring salmon trollers has resulted in a falling off of prices, which had remained steady for several weeks at 12c and 4c, to 10c and 2c. A good run has developed at Stephens Island and the most of the fish landed is coming from there although there is also some from Dundas Island, Warke Canal and other trolling areas. On Monday two trollers arrived with about 4,000 pounds between them, the fish being sold to the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co. Other individual trollers have also been bringing in loads. Packers of Flewin & Brown and Billy Green of Port Simpson are being kept quite busy now delivering loads into Prince Rupert.

Heartened by noticeably better price conditions during the past week or so, early April sees practically the entire Prince Rupert halibut fleet back on the fishing grounds after having been tied up for varying periods owing to early season low prices. With heavy landings expected as a result of so many boats being out again, there are fears that there may be another collapse in prices later in the month. No organized effort has yet been made with a view to curtailing production.

The Dominion Fisheries is now calling for charter tenders on vessels to be used for fishery patrol purposes this summer. In view of unfavorable market conditions for fish, it is expected that probably more boats than usual will bid for the work this year. It is understood the department intends to adhere to the policy set a year or so ago whereby commercial, and not pleasure, vessels shall be given this work. Inspection dates for north coast points are set as follows: Namu, April 28; Bella Coola, April 29; Ocean Falls, May 1; Bella Bella, May 2; Butedale, May 3; Prince Rupert, May 4.

Cannerymen Here

Robert Gosse, J. Field Strang and John McKenzie, well known Pacific Coast cannerymen, spent Wednesday and Thursday out of Prince Rupert inspecting canneries in the district which it is possible they may take over and operate. Lowe Inlet was one of the canneries inspected with this end in view. The trio had a busy two days, using the power tug Salvage Princess for their journeyings out of Prince Rupert.

The well known Prince Rupert halibut boat Zopora, Capt. Lara Voqe, is now on a two months' charter to the International Fisheries Commission to be used in research work on the halibut banks contiguous to Queen Charlotte Islands. The Zopora took up her work at Seattle and came up via Cape Flattery and the West Coast of Vancouver Island to the West Coast of Queen Charlotte Islands, putting out drift bottles enroute. During the early stage of the work Harry Dunlop has been in charge on the Zopora for the Commission, but will be leaving the vessel in a few days at Prince Rupert to proceed to Seattle. J. L. Kask, who joined the vessel at Prince Rupert on Wednesday, and Olaf Erickson, who will go on board in a few days, and will be in charge after Mr. Dunlop's departure Larry Thompson, another scientist of the Commission, was taken off the Zopora at Massett about the end of March and brought into Prince Rupert for hospital treatment, having been taken ill. The Zopora called here this week, arriving on Thursday noon and leaving at midnight Wednesday.

D. B. Finn, re-appointed director of the Prince Rupert Fisheries Experimental Station, is now expected to arrive in Prince Rupert early in May to resume his duties. He has been taking up post-graduate work for some time at Cambridge University in England. The provincial police cruiser P.M.L. 8 has been on the pontoons at the local dry dock this week for minor repairs. The P.M.L. 4, which has been here from Ocean Falls for the past couple of months, made a patrol this week in place of P.M.L. 8.

Bulletins By Bedford

Two interesting bulletins in connection with the Pacific Coast hal-

but fisheries, prepared by Dr. Robert H. Bedford, a member of the scientific staff of the Prince Rupert Fisheries Experimental Station, at present on the Atlantic Coast, have been issued. One is entitled "Salt as a Control of Bacterial Decomposition of Halibut" and the other, "The Visibility of Bacterium in Aqueous Solutions of Formaldehyde."

According to a bulletin issued by the United States Bureau of Fisheries, British Columbia contributed 685,104 cases to the total Pacific salmon pack of 9,018,181 cases in 1931. The total includes, as well as British Columbia's, the Alaska pack of 5,403,811 cases, the Pacific Coast States' pack of 6,740,045 cases, the Siberian pack of 1,134,702 cases and that of Japan amounting to 458,270 cases. In comparison with the Alaska, United States and Siberia packs, that of British Columbia certainly pales into insignificance. The pack for British Columbia by areas or districts was as follows:

Fraser River—Howe Sound	115,681
Naas River	14,995
Skeena River	183,865
Rivers Inlet	78,122
Smith's Inlet	14,094
Central Area	128,119
District No. 3	144,039

The scowload of locomotives, rails and other logging equipment from Alice Arm, which has lain for months alongside the Pacific Salvage Co.'s dock here, was removed at the end of last week for Billmor where it has been stored on shore, the outfit being taken down in tow of the Salvage Princess. The company requires the scow for other work.

Word has been received here that Dr. R. H. Bedford of the scientific staff of the Prince Rupert Fisheries Experimental Station, who is at present at the St. Andrew's New Brunswick, biological station engaged in special bacteriological research work, lost many of his valuable books and other personal equipment when fire destroyed one of the laboratories at the Atlantic station recently. Dr. Bedford's friends will regret to hear of his loss.

Halibut Landings

Owing to the recent tie-up of boats because of low price conditions, halibut landings at the port of Prince Rupert for the week ending yesterday were light at a total of 350,800 pounds of which 54,300 pounds was brought in by Canadian vessels and 296,500 pounds by American. This brought the season's landings at the port up to 1,685,750 pounds as at April 8, this figure including 789,550 pounds of Canadian and 896,200 pounds of American fish.

Prices for the week averaged fairly well. The high bid of the week for Canadian fish was 8.5c and 3c received by the Signal for 7,000 pounds while the low was 5.5c and 4.5c paid the Alice May and Teddy for catches of 1600 and 700 pounds respectively. For American fish the high price was 10c and 5c paid the Lituya for 7,000 pounds and the low 5.9c and 3c received by the Pioneer for 18,000 pounds.

A new kind of "war" is going on in Prince Rupert. It is nothing less than a "manure war," imagine that! It is not necessarily a "waterfront" subject, although some of the gardening boys like Jim Lee and Mil Nickerson, are very interested, so we are going to tell about it under the heading of "whiffs" and ask you if that is not appropriate. The price has dropped during the past few days from somewhere around the four dollar mark to \$2 per yard at which they were advertising this fragrant bovine by-product this week. And the merry war was still waging while the battle—and the manure—smoked and steamed. Some of the Scotchmen were heard to predict with their national cannyness that, if they waited long enough before ordering, the manure merchants might be prepared to

pay for the privilege of delivering—if not spreading—their sweet, yet very necessary, product. It looks like we will at last be able to have a pile of manure this spring even if we cannot get around to the garden part of it. One good thing about it, the manure, like the Christmas or the wedding cake, improves with age. More power to George Casey and Casey Vink.

Undertaker Saves Doctor

They are saying that Frank Morris, the undertaker, saved Lew Ker-gin, the doctor, from Old Man Harbor one day this week although neither the modest Frank or the bashful Lew were prepared to tell us much about it. Anyhow, it appears that Lew had been unable to get out of the way of his big feet and had taken the icy plunge when the gallant Frank came along and, after considerable engineering ability and ingenuity had been exercised, was able to drag him out. Whether the Life Saving Society will confer a leather medal or a tin one upon Frank has not yet been decided. Just the same, it is a very romantic thought to reflect that the undertaker saved the doctor.

Oliver Morris of the Pacific Sea Foods Co. at Hoquiam, Wash., arrived at Massett recently to take over the management of the Nootka Packing Co.'s cannery (formerly Langara cannery). He expects to remain at Massett through the spring and summer.

Since the fishing season at Prince Rupert closed on November 15 last, a total of 266 cars of frozen fish have been billed from this port to eastern cities. Aggregate shipments of frozen fish from western Canada since that date, including fish from the prolific lakes of the three prairie provinces, are 531 cars.

Edible crabs unquestionably suffer somewhat in popularity with some persons through the tradition which characterizes them as scavengers. That this reputation is entirely undeserved is stated by Donald C. G. McKay in a Progress Report of the Pacific Experimental Station. Mr. McKay has been conducting a study of the Pacific Coast crab and makes the statement that the food of the crab is mainly fresh in character. He has found that small fish, shrimp, clams and other crabs form the principal items of the crab's menu. He points out that this is in distinct contrast with the case of the lobster and many other large crustaceans, the crab evidently having suffered in reputation because of the tendencies of its less particular cousins. The investigator reports having watched live crabs in an aquarium show extraordinary dexterity in catching live fish. They have also been observed crushing through the shells of small oysters and razor clams, these latter shellfish appearing to be practically the exclusive diet of crabs in waters where the razor clams are to be found.

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