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Gold production showed a decided increase; a total return in Canadian funds to the gold-producers of British Columbia during the first six months for 1934 being approximately $5,028,-124.00, an increase of 81.3% over the return in Canadian funds received during the first half of 1933.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

Annual Report of the Honourable the Minister of Mines for the year 1933.

Summary and Review of the Mineral Industry of British Columbia for the six months ended June 30th 1934.

Bulletin "British Columbia the Mineral Industry" (containing a short history of mining, a synopsis of the Mining Laws, and other data of value to prospectors).

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Many Children Hear Stories

Christmas Tree Provided and Carols Sung at Gathering This Morning

There was a Christmas program this morning at the regular story hour in the public library building which was enjoyed by 75 children between the ages of eight and twelve. Miss Helen McCaffery told the story of how Christmas came to the King. Mrs. W. L. Stamford told the legend of St. Nicholas and Miss Eileen Gibson recounted the story of "The Great Walled Country."

In addition to the stories, two carols were sung and there was a Christmas Tree from which each child got something.

This is the last day for the older children until January 12. The children between the ages of four and eight will have their final gathering before the Christmas holidays next Saturday morning.

STOP & THINK

Christmas will soon be here. Make our store your shopping headquarters. We have what you are looking for and the prices are right.

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BLUE RIBBON BAKING POWDER, 5-lb. tin	$1.19
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SMYRNA FIGS—Fresh 5 lbs.	35c
I.B.C. SODA BISCUITS—Family size, per pkg.	19c
SWEET MIXED BISCUITS per lb.	27c
GRANULATED SUGAR Limit 20 lbs.; 20 lbs.	$1.17
ROBIN HOOD OATS—China per pkg.	29c
ROBIN HOOD OATS—Plain per pkg.	20c
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WALNUTS, BRAZILS, ALMONDS, FILBERTS—per lb.	19c
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PEANUTS—Fresh & Crisp 3 lbs.	35c
CALIFORNIA WALNUTS—large, soft shell, 2 lbs.	55c

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WATERFRONT WHIFFS

Was "Sea Serpent" Shot by Porcher Island Mining Man?—Deer Hunting Season Closes Soon—Dybhavn and Carter Going to Ottawa

Was R. E. Legg, superintendent of the Surf Point mine, the slayer of Prince Rupert's terrible "sea serpent?" Such was the question, with an answer very possibly in the affirmative, which arose this week following receipt of a letter from Mr. Legg by Dr. Neal Carter, director of the Prince Rupert Fisheries Experimental Station. In the letter Mr. Legg tells of having seen a strange, large creature in the water in front of his house at Surf Point about two months ago. It seemed to be pretty well hemmed in and unable to get out. Practically all that could be seen was a large fin sticking out of the water. Mr. Legg fired six rifle bullets at the object below the fin but was unable to tell at the time whether or not he had harmed it. A day or so after Mrs. Legg saw what she believed to be the same object floating on the surface a little distance off shore. It looked very much like a log. Little more was thought of it until after Hugo Sandstrum found the skeleton three weeks ago. Surf Point, where Mr. Legg resides, is about a couple of miles from Henry Island so it is thought quite possible that the creature he shot may have drifted to the point where the skeleton was found. Mr. Legg also sent in to Dr. Carter some bones including pieces of vertebrae, etc. which he picked up on Henry Island before the scientists went there to get the skeleton.

Despite the identification of Dr. W. A. Clemens, director of the Nanaimo Biological Station of the local skeleton as being that of a basking shark, interest in the creature continues keen and "sea serpent" talk is still very much the order of the day. All available references and literature on strange creatures of the deep have been very much in demand of late and a great deal of interesting matter on the subject has been dug up. In the latest issue of the Sunday Mirror (New York) appear scenes of basking shark fishing off the Island of Aran, Ireland. There these creatures run in great schools, attaining a length of twenty feet or more. There is a good photograph of one of the creatures, flappers and all, suspended from a derrick and one could quite imagine the local skeleton having been like it in life.

A number of the local skeptics, who were at first inclined to scoff at Dr. Clemens' identification, seem to be coming around now to the opinion that the government biologist may have been right. This is probably as a result of reading up on basking sharks and checking with the local remains.

The local skeleton will, however, continue to be of value even if it is a basking shark for it is unquestionably a very large one. The remains are still in the formaldehyde vat at the Fisheries Experimental Station where the process of pickling is proceeding. What is to be done with them has not yet been decided. The Museum Board has suggested that quarters might be found for them at the experimental station building. The Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co., it is understood, would willingly take the skeleton over for its "chamber of horrors." In any case, there appears now to be little likelihood of the curio being taken away, especially since the Provincial Museum has announced that it is no longer interested.

Following are some directions contained in "All About Fish" (W. S. Berridge), a new book in the local library, for those who might wish to go hunting for basking sharks: "They are easily approached and struck with a harpoon, when the fish at once darts away and carries out from seventy to 200 fathoms of line. Reaching the bottom, he rolls himself and rubs his wound against the ground to get free from the harpoon. After about an hour the fishermen begin to haul up the harpoon line which is coiled up in preparation for the fish making another rush. In this way he is often played with eight or nine hours before he can be brought to the surface."

Lieut. Col. J. S. Tait of Vancouver and Alex Matheson, manager of Carlisle Cannery, are among the latest to report having seen a "sea serpent" in district waters. When they were travelling in the vicinity of Massett Inlet in the Canadian Fishing Co.'s vessel Canfisco in August 1926 they noticed a "serpent" which they estimated to be about twenty feet long slipping through the water nearby.

Union steamer Cardena, Capt. Ernest Georgeson, arrived in port at 2:30 this morning from the south and sailed about an hour later on her return to Vancouver and waypoints.

Hunting Nears Close

The deer hunting season will come to a close on Saturday of next week and a month later the season for ducks and geese will end. Not a great many deer have been taken this year. In fact, they have been reported scarce. This may be due to the lack of snow in the mountains as a result of which the deer may have been staying at higher levels. There may also be something to the belief of some that a pestilence has struck the deer in this district during the past year or so and made them scarce. Ducks have been fairly plentiful this fall but geese have been scarce. Some say that mild weather in the interior has caused great numbers of geese to migrate south this fall by way of the interior instead of via the coast.

John Dybhavn, member of the Biological Board of Canada, and Dr. Neal Carter, director of the Prince Rupert Fisheries Experimental Station, will leave Prince Rupert on December 26 for Ottawa to attend the annual meeting of the Biological Board of Canada scheduled to open January 2 and continue for four days. While in the east, Mr. Dybhavn will, as usual, visit some of the larger centres on private fisheries business as well as attending sessions of the board.

Coast freighter Salvor, Capt. A. Georgeson, arrived in port last evening from the south with coal cargo for Philpott & Evitt and powder for the interior.

Balloon Dance By Moose Lodge Was Enjoyable Event

An enjoyable balloon dance was held last night by the Moose Lodge with about 150 persons in attendance. The affair was in progress from 10 p.m until 2 a.m. Music was by Mrs. J. S. Black's Orchestra and Gillis Royer was master of ceremonies. Refreshments were served at midnight with Mrs. O. Stegavig and Mrs. Peter Wingham in charge.

The general committee consisted of C. R. Biggart, Ted Rorvik, A. McDonald, Hans Knutsen and Peter Nelson. Decorations were in charge of Gillis Royer, Andrew McDonald and H. Parks.

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We have a large stock of decorations for home and store. Tree decorations, candles, wreaths, icicles, streamers, tinsel, bells, etc.

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Bedstead	$10.40
Mattress, 54 lbs. Imperial	$8.10

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Steel Reeds Accordion	$9.00

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