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### THE DAILY NEWS. PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## United States Election

Canadian people are divided in their sympathies with the presidential candidates in the United States election which takes place Tuesday. In this district we should be all for Roosevelt but we are not. There are plenty of Landon sympathizers even here. From a selfish point of view, and politics is mostly selfishness, we stand to gain from the continuation of the Roosevelt administration. It was they who took the cent a pound off the halibut duty and it was they who made it possible for Canadians once more to ship some of their lumber into the United States. Those are the policies that help us in the northern part of British Columbia.

Some Canadian people were Republicans in the United States years ago and they continue to sympathize with that party here. There also are many Canadians of a conservative turn of mind who fear that the radical policies of Roosevelt and his party will spread into Canada and affect the political programs in this country. For that reason they would like to see Roosevelt defeated.

The election in the United States is a very strenuous one. Landon is opposing Roosevelt's policies but is proposing nothing in their place. He seems from his speeches to be against everything but for nothing. One of his supporters in radio addresses is trying to show that the president is a thief and a murderer. He said that in his university days Roosevelt led a Red group and that he is still a Red and that, if re-elected, he will turn the United States into another Russia. Also he hints that the president is allied with a group that caused the death of Huey Long and a long list of prominent men, some of whom died natural deaths. The Republicans are evidently stopping at nothing that they think will defeat their opponent. They are going so far as to cause a revulsion of popular feeling in his favor and helping to elect the man they wish to defeat. The people of English speaking countries like fairness in their politics. A stranger, listening in to the political speeches, would wonder what sort of people these Americans were. People of Italy, Germany and Russia must look across the ocean and say to themselves: "Thank God we do not live in a democracy if those are the sort of men they elect as their leaders."

## Drivers of Autos

The average Prince Rupert car owner drives most circumspectly. He realizes that the conditions in this city are such as to make fast driving dangerous. He knows that children play in the streets because there are few playgrounds. Also the streets are narrow and it is not easy to see anyone turning into the streets from residences. There are, however, a few reckless drivers who do not realize these dangers. They step on the gas and in many cases do not even honk their horns.

There have been children killed on the streets as a result of driving of cars and there will be others in a few of the lads who drive too fast are not curbed.

Many children are very daring and it is difficult to avoid accidents, especially when crowds of them are playing together, rushing hither and thither. They have little wholesome fear and it is a wonder that more have not been injured or killed. If there were a bad accident we should all be shocked and steps would be taken to avoid a repetition. It is better to be safe than sorry. A terrible object lesson should not be necessary in order to bring about safer conditions on both sides.

## HALIBUT BANKS COMING BACK; CONSERVATION MEASURES BEING ATTENDED WITH GOOD RESULTS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

But by careful collection of all available records, the story has been brought to light. The fact that the fishery for many years lived by constant expansion of the grounds as each new bank in turn declined in yield, and that the total for the coast fell in spite of this expansion, is but part of the story and throws no light on the reason for the decline. To discover this, statistics were collected, from company records, from vessel log books, from government files, and from periodicals, and they were sorted out by regions or areas. These areas were defined by other investigations and, only when they were known, did the cause of the depletion of each bank become plain.

### Overbuilding of Fleet

The cause was evident in the overbuilding of the fleet. When this happened, not only was the existing total catch from each area divided among a greater number of boats year by year, but the total catch itself decreased. Three times in the present Area 2, the banks south of Cape Spencer, there have been great increases in the amount of fishing within the area. Each time the result was the same. The increased fishing brought in a greater total catch for a time, then this fell to a new low level, and remained there. It remained there until a new increase in fishing, encouraged by better prices, repeated the story and brought the total yield to a still lower level. The production in Area 2 fell in these three steps: from sixty-five million pounds to twenty-two million in 1930. In these plain facts which compared the yield and the amount of fishing for the first time, was to be seen the cause of decline, over-fishing. And the conclusion is certain that by less fishing a greater amount of fish can be obtained for division among the boats, be their number what it may.

At first this was not readily seen. Until it was realized that the different sections of the banks were behaving as separate units, no one thought to separate the records accordingly and a decline in one was obscured by an increase in another. Now that the secret is out, it seems plain enough that there were distinct stocks of halibut, because each area of the coast went its own way regardless of the others. The banks off British Columbia were once far more heavily populated than those in the Gulf of Alaska, and were depleted until they were far more lightly populated, apparently without affecting the abundance of fish either to north or south. The isolated stock to the south, off the Columbia River, remained at a high level until 1915, was abruptly depleted by a very intense fishery over a period of two years, and has never been rebuilt. It was a splendid natural experiment proving the practical independence of stocks.

### Halibut Differences

At the same time that these general evidences of separate stocks of halibut were being gradually discovered by a slow process of collecting and analyzing a vast mass of statistical evidence, a more direct attack was being made on the problem by other scientific methods. It was first found that halibut from different regions differed in such things as the length of the head, characters that could not be abruptly changed as the fish happen to change its place of living. Also, the rate of growth was found to differ greatly. Yet these differences did not hold for all individuals, however clear they were on the average, and it was conceivable that a certain number of individuals might drift from one area to another.

A more direct method was accordingly used. Numbered metal tags were placed on live fish which were liberated. A record was kept of the fish and its place of liberation. A reward was paid for its recovery, when information accompanied the tag. Of 6078 halibut freed in Area 2, some 2380 have been recaptured and of these only two were found in Area 3. Of 6891 halibut freed in Area 3, some 1132 have been recaptured, but only 59 in Area 2 over a period of eight years. Examining the results for age of the returned fish, the time they have been out, the amount of fishing necessary to capture them, and other factors, the migration

between the areas of fish less than spawning age is almost nil, and of mature fish a fraction of a percent per year. Although the occasional migrant gives the speculative fisherman something to talk about, it is totally negligible from the standpoint of maintaining the supply in either area when compared to the number of young which even a sadly depleted stock of spawners can produce.

### Do Not Drift

These experiments had to do only with the fish of marketable size. It remained necessary to prove that halibut did not drift from one area to another as eggs or as minute floating young. In the place at my command for this article I cannot go deeply into the fascinating story written by the commission scientists, of how the halibut egg is laid in slowly moving deep water, how the young fish floats upright like other fishes for four or five months, and how it then comes to swim on its left side while one eye migrates to lie beside its fellow on the upper, right side. At that time the young halibut rises into the surface water and drifts inshore, to settle down on the banks it makes its home until it migrates for spawning. That occurs usually at an age of twelve years.

Once this life history was known, it was possible to trace the migration, or rather drift, of the young by means of net hauls. Hauls were made over much of the North Pacific, at different times and places, and studies of the currents show plainly that the chances of young from one area replenishing banks in another are small indeed.

### Distinct Areas

These are important conclusions, that the stocks in different areas are distinct, and behave differently, that each must produce its own spawn, and that the amount of fishing determines the annual yield. It is important to note that these conclusions are based on a number of lines of evidence corroborating each other and confirming the observation that the areas have from the beginning shown that they are distinct because their behavior was different as fishing depleted them.

The conclusion that less fishing would give a greater annual yield was so contrary to what had been generally thought that before relying on it, the commission sought to find out just why it was true. The staff set to work to reconstruct as nearly as possible what happened to a halibut each year of its life from the time it came of commercial size until it met death. By the use of marks on the ear bones the age was determined. By the use of tagging experiments some estimate was reached as to the rate at which halibut were captured. On some banks they were found to be disappearing at a rate of sixty percent each year of their age, on others less, and that few reached the maximum ages of thirty-five or forty years. It was already known to what extent they migrated.

It was found that it was profitable to leave halibut on the banks a longer time because they were gaining more by growth than they were losing by death from natural causes; that if they were left longer on the banks the accumulated stock on the banks was larger at any one time and that what the fisherman lost in less fishing was gained in a larger catch per day or per set of a piece of gear; and that the longer time on the banks not only allowed for more growth but that the fish were able to reach spawning size in greater numbers. Greater growth and a greater production of eggs were to be had without decreasing the total annual poundage used by the fleet. It is, however, difficult to compress within a few lines what it has taken years of careful work to discover. Suffice it to say that the details are on record, and that put into practice by the commission the conclusions reached have proved correct. The banks are being restocked without decreasing the annual catch, a most surprising accomplishment in view of the first belief that a radical restric-

## Today's Weather

(Government Telegraphs)  
Terrace—Clear, calm, 80.  
Alice Arm—Calm, 26.  
Stewart—Clear, calm, 25.  
Hazelton—Clear, calm, 20.  
Smithers—Clear, calm, frosty.  
Burns Lake—Clear, calm, 22.  
Prince George—Cloudy, north wind, 12 miles per hour; barometer, 30.14.  
Dead Tree Point—Clear, calm; barometer, 30.30; temperature, 34; sea smooth.  
Triple Island—Clear, fresh northwest wind; sea choppy.  
Estevan—Clear, northeast wind eight miles per hour; barometer, 29.96.  
Victoria—Cloudy, northwest wind, 10 miles per hour; barometer, 29.93.  
Vancouver—Clear, northwest wind, four miles per hour; barometer, 29.94.

tion in this catch would be necessary for a time, if not permanently.

### Restoring Of Yield

The commission, under its powers, leaves with the fleet and trade the disposal of an annual catch which is substantially greater already than it would have been had the decline gone unchecked; a catch which has a higher percentage of first class fish and which can be taken with less effort, so that trips are no longer made at a loss. And it expects that, as the amount of spawn increases, the young produced will justify a greater annual catch, until a substantial fraction of the former great yield of the depleted banks is restored. The economic problems which the fleet has always faced it must leave to others.

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