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**PRINCE RUPERT'S FIRST GREAT INDUSTRY**

Largest and Best Equipped Fish and Cold Storage Plant on the American Continent Will be Completed and in Operation Early in May of This Year

One may well wonder why more Prince Rupert people do not take a stroll out to Seal Cove. There are fine plank roads all the way, and the view that bursts on you as you top the cliff is one of the most delightful to be found anywhere. Probably because Prince Rupert people are too prosaically practical to take any stock in scenery. If such be the case, why is it they have not visited Seal Cove and taken an interest in the establishment of a great industry there, one which will be known far and wide in a very few years and one of the notable sights that tourists to this city will insist on seeing.

One reason may be that the construction of the great fish and cold storage plant has been going on for some time and the subject therefore grown commonplace. From April of last year until recently the monthly payroll of the Atlin Construction Company was a considerable item, and since the offices of Foley, Welch & Stewart, railway contractors, removed from the city last autumn it has been practically the only payroll except that of the city itself. Yet very little public interest seems to be taken in the enterprise, while any other new city would be proud to brag of having such a payroll and would pay good money to advertise the fact. The payroll now is only about \$5,000 per month, but after the first of the very next May, when the great concern opens for actual business, it will grow and grow to enormous proportions.

**Splendid Advertisement for City.**

The people of Prince Rupert have their heads in the air, gazing into the not very distant future when this city will be one of the most famous world ports, so this handsome payroll probably strikes them as a matter of minor importance. It should not be overlooked, however, that this is the first industry founded here; that it is on a scale sufficiently large to demand attention everywhere; that it is the largest of its kind on this continent; that it will be a splendid advertisement for Prince Rupert and lead to the selection of this city for numerous other industries.

**Builder a Leading Expert.**

One can only gain a comprehensive idea of the immensity of this enterprise by a visit to the plant and a chat with the genial superintendent, George L. Clayton. Mr. Clayton is the builder and architect. He has been in this business of erecting cold storage plants ever since the first machine for one was received in Chicago from Berlin, the capital of Germany. That was thirty years ago, and he is still a young looking and active man. He has made so close and so special a study of this one thing during all these years that he has arrived at the honor of being classed as the leading expert in the business. One of those who when capital desires to reap advantage from his expert knowledge and says: "George, here is a business project; what is your fee for advice?" he is in a position to tell them to write it in four or five figures, all the same as a famous court physician.

**Will Be No Smoke Nuisance.**

A notable landmark in the beautiful scenery of Seal Cove is this cold storage plant, the main building, huge and windowless, with its overhanging eaves and rafters looking for all the world like an immense adobe mausoleum.

It is somewhat relieved by the lesser buildings, as these have windows, and very much so by the slender graceful smokestack, which rises to a height of 152 feet. Not so slender as it looks, however, for its mean internal diameter is five feet. It is constructed of reinforced steel concrete, as are all the rest of the buildings, built on the solid rock and having anchor bolts extending into the surrounding solid rock a depth of six feet.

The managers of the enterprise have glimpsed into the future to a time when the lovely views in this section will lead to every foot being taken up with handsome residences and lawns, and they raised this lofty shaft, which looks like a monolith, to avoid any conflict with the smoke nuisance bylaws the successors of the present aldermen will undoubtedly pass. Not that there can be much, if any, of a nuisance from this particular stack, for one of the most modern of all the modern appliances one sees in the plant is an automatic stoker. The two Babcock & Wilcox improved water tube boilers of 250 horsepower each are fitted with chain grate stokers.

**Automatic Stokers.**

There is no firehole, so to speak, for the two boilers. Overhead are two hoppers, or bunkers, which discharge the coal direct on the patent grates. The bars form an endless chain going over two drums, and the feed and speed at which these grates move can be regulated and it then works automatically. So there is complete combustion and very little of the fuel goes through the big stack in the form of smoke. The size of this boiler room is 42 by 50 feet.

The main building is 80 by 145 feet and six stories, with two elevators running to each floor. On the first floor are six freezers, each having a capacity of ten tons per day. There is also a room which is called the glazing room. To this room King Sockeye, after being properly cleaned, is introduced. He is immersed in cold distilled water, which forms a coating of ice and this hermetically seals this dainty fish from contact with the common air and enables it to be delivered in London in as fresh a state as when taken from these waters.

**Cold Storage for Rupert.**

Three of the large rooms on this floor are set apart for the use of Prince Rupert merchants for the cold storage of meats, vegetables and other perishables.

The other five storeys are much of a sameness, with room of different sizes for the storage of sea products and also for the storage of the eggs, butter and other farm products coming in from Alberta and the Bulkley Valley by train loads at a time as soon as the transcontinental railway begins to run through trains regularly. And this will be at no very distant date. It is believed now that this notable event will come to pass early in the autumn of next year. By that time this cold storage plant will be employing five hundred men, to say nothing of the hordes of fishermen. Then there will be an almost endless string of tourists passing through these long, pearly white halls, with their electric light clusters and the beautifully ice encrusted pipes running overhead.

**Clear Ice at Low Rates.**

Adjoining the main building is

the engine room, 50 feet wide by 80 feet long, containing refrigerating machinery of the most modern type and having a capacity of about 150 tons daily. There is also an electric generator, of sufficient capacity to generate all the electricity for lighting and motors the plant can possibly require. On the floor above this engine room is an ice making room with a capacity of fifty tons of merchantable ice daily, and during the coming summer the citizens of Prince Rupert will be furnished with this ice made from distilled water at cheap rates.

Next to the engine building is the machine shops, occupying 50 by 65 feet, in which there is now being installed lathes and other tools, so that the company will be able to make its own repairs to the machinery of the plant as well as to its gasoline and steam vessels and trawlers.

**Buying Trawlers in England.**

In regard to the latter, by the way, Mr. G. H. Collins, the general manager of the company, who is now in England, has purchased for the company fifteen trawling vessels, 70 feet long by 12 feet beam schooners with gasoline auxiliary. These will cost \$60,000 each. But when it comes to figures the machinery and pipe cost \$50,000, and by the first of May the whole plant will have run into the large sum, exclusive of boats and seagoing outfit, of \$350,000.

For one thing the material used in the construction of the buildings has been of an expensive kind. Mr. Clayton not only declares it to be the most modern in every regard, but the largest plant of its kind on this continent. It has been examined and classed as A1 by the board of underwriters, it being absolutely fireproof throughout. There is no wood used except the window frames in the lesser buildings, all the lintels being of concrete and all the doors of specially prepared iron for cold storage buildings, which are being imported.

**Costly Material in Walls.**

The outer walls, as before stated, are of reinforced steel concrete, but it is in the interior walls of the cold storage part of the buildings that the great expense comes in. These walls have a plaster finish and there is first a layer of hollow tile about five inches, then five inches of compressed granulated cork, one inch of Watonite, a composition having mastic as its base, then more cork, a layer of hollow tiles and the plaster. The floors are constructed in practically the same way and throughout the building will stand a pressure of 400 pounds to the foot. This makes the insulation against the air perfect. But the cost! Ten carloads of this hollow tile, costing \$1,000 per car, have been used, and twenty-three carloads of the cork at a cost of \$26,000.

**Means a Big Pay Roll.**

Early in May the whole of the works will be in operation and open to public inspection. Its fish storing capacity in the main building will be 13,600,000 pounds, in addition to the cold storage rooms for customers. These cold storage rooms can be run at as low a temperature as 25 below zero, but will be run milder than that to suit the kind of goods stored. It will start with a staff of about thirty men, but in addition there will be the men employed outside, and as soon as

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**BECAUSE OF THE TIME IT SAVES THEM**

When a man's time is worth a great deal more to him than the cost of a drink habit cure he is not going to drag along for twenty-eight to forty-two days taking a treatment when he can get a cure in three days, without hypodermic injections, and be surrounded with every comfort of home.

**A PERFECT CURE.**

The Neal internal treatment cures the periodical, occasional or moderate drinker and the nervous man who has to drink to keep from becoming nervous. It takes away all inclination to drink, all desire and craving to drink, by neutralizing the poison of alcohol in the system and ridding the blood

of the poison by a rapid system of elimination, leaving the drinker in the condition that he was before tasting liquor, so far as the effect of alcohol may be concerned—all appetite for drink gone—and he is a new man.

The treatment consists of the internal administration of a harmless remedy, tonic in its action, that removes the craving for liquor in a very few hours.

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through trains are running the total number of men employed will run to five hundred and over.

**Steamers to Vancouver.**

The dockage is sufficiently large to conveniently dock and unload a dozen large fishing boats at the same time, the whole water frontage of the dock measuring 400 feet by 140 feet in width. It will no doubt be a busy wharf, for it is rumored that in addition to the fifteen trawlers already purchased the company will have its own freight steamers plying between here and Van-

couver and Seattle. Also there will be from one hundred and fifty to two hundred independent boats calling every day. It will also establish offices at the ports, and at Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, Boston, New York, London and Hongkong.

So you see that this first industry, of which so little has been heard and to which so little consideration has been given, is really worthy of high commendation and is an enterprise of which Prince Rupert may be justly proud.



VIEW OF TUCK INLET OVERLOOKING COLD STORAGE BUILDING.