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## THE DAILY NEWS.

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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DAILY EDITION

Wednesday, December 4, 1941.

## EDITORIAL

### Picking Up Some . . .

The Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting was interesting this week, more interesting than usual. A number of matters were brought forward for discussion and a good many people were started thinking along lines not noticed before. Evidently the Chamber of Commerce dinners are looking up and should improve as the winter goes on.

### New School Reports . . .

Evidently there is a difference of opinion in regard to the new school reports. We have heard people say they are much better than the old ones and we have heard others say they do not like them a little bit. Others have used even stronger language in expressing themselves. We suggest that they should not be condemned because they are new and different but if there is no value in them after they have been used a while, then a strong protest should be made against their use. Because they are new does not mean that they are better or worse.

### Divided Opinions . . .

We are not trying to start an argument but several incidents recently have drawn attention to the fact that we are all differently constituted, we think differently, react differently and live differently. Our likes and dislikes are as far apart as the poles. Take the matter of reading. One person likes detective stories and will read little else. Others get a thrill from the comics in the newspapers. There are those who read only philosophical literature, who read in Carle, who feed on Ruskin and who browse lightly with Tolstoy. A few prefer the lighter classics. Then there are the busier minds that are attracted by sensational literature and the few who go even lower and will read nothing decent. We have all these people in the world and more. If we cannot agree on such a thing as the literature we read, we must certainly will not agree on the many other phases of life. Tolerance is the great virtue but even tolerance can be overcome.

### Defence Of Alaska . . .

Says the Victoria Times: "Alaska's sparse population has caused the architects of United States defence considerable apprehension ever since totalitarianism began to redraw the map of the world and carve on the spheres of influence the men of Berlin, Rome and Tokyo consider essential to their particular international racket. This vast territory adjoining British Columbia has attracted so few settlers that many Americans have feared it might fall an easy prey to a would-be invader. "Population figures, however, have been studied recently and the authorities in Washington are noting with some satisfaction—if not with noisy jubilation—that a recent compilation shows a total of 71,511 compared with 59,278 ten years ago. This is growth at the rate of 21.1 per cent—a rate exceeded during the same period only by Florida and New Mexico. The military population is now growing still faster, of course, and that always draws a certain amount of civilians to supply the army posts, so greater growth is definitely in sight. But, says one commentator, "it is still a pitifully small body of people to hold this vast territory on the direct 'invasion airline' from Asia." Would not a highway through British Columbia help Alaska to grow?"

## HALIBUT OPERATORS OF PR. RUPERT OFFER VIEWS

(Continued from Page One)

fishermen—which would formulate curtailment plans. If these boards were not able to agree among themselves, then the Commission would go ahead with a plan, treating dis-sident ports by a system of time curtailment only. After explaining the details of the Commission's plan, Mr. Patmore invited discussion from the meeting.

### Local Views

George Anderson, representing the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, announced the opposition of that organization to the Commission taking hold of the curtailment administration. There had been, he said, a considerable amount of antagonism between the large American fleet and the local Canadian fleet. If the Commission took over curtailment function, one group might get a better deal than the other. Also the power of bargaining would be removed from the boat owners and the fishermen.

Capt. Ole Stegavig, representing the Canadian Halibut Vessel Owners' Association, concurred in what had been said by Mr. Anderson. The boat owners had changed their minds since they had asked the Commission to take over curtailment administration. Marketing control legislation had now been constitutionally established and that had made a difference. Capt. Stegavig stated that earnings of the halibut fleet were now estimated at from \$900 to \$1000 for the boats operating in Area No. 2 and \$1400 to \$1800 for the larger vessels operating in Area No. 3. If the length of the season were stretched out, these earnings would not be increased and the possibility of making something in the fall by black cod fishing or packing would be removed.

The longer the season was stretched out, Mr. Anderson believed, the more part time boats there would be in the fishery. It had been at first thought better prices would be obtained by a longer fishing period and the stretching of the landings but this had not proven to be the case since the dealers merely adjusted their holdings, and paid no higher prices.

It was generally admitted that the curtailment plan was of benefit in tending to prevent market glut and stabilize prices.

Mr. Whitmore pointed out that Seattle, Ketchikan and Petersburg at present did not have the force of law behind their curtailment plans such as the Canadian fleet had by reason of marketing legislation.

Opposed to Surrender  
G. W. Nickerson was opposed to the Commission being invested with



any power to institute curtailment measures. It should not be permitted to do anything more than administer a control plan which might be drawn up by the boat owners and fishermen. There was too much power vested in the hand of commissions already. Mr. Nickerson declared that halibut had never been more plentiful or easier to get than they had been in the last year or two. This operated to the advantage of the part time fishermen and to the disadvantage of the regular fleets which were held down by the quotas. Something should be done to limit the boats which engaged in part time halibut fishing such as delaying the opening of the season to May 1.

Then arose a discussion as to the advantage which the larger American boats had over the smaller Canadian in being able to fish in both areas whereas the Canadians could fish in only one. This discrimination might be in a measure removed by requiring boats to be licensed for a single area.

In the course of discussion of proposed new regulations for 1941 after the local boat owners and fishermen had presented their recommendation that the quotas be increased, Mr. Patmore stated that, whereas 22,700,000 pounds had been set as the No. 2 Area quota for 1941, actually 27,158,000 pounds had been taken, some two million pounds of the overage being due, it was believed, to poaching. There had been a falling off during the past couple of years in the catch per unit of gear and the fish egg trend was also flattening off. Signs pointed to the danger of over fishing in Area No. 2 and the Commission did not see that any increase in the quota could be justified.

First Mr. Stegavig and then Mr. Nickerson challenged scientific contention that the abundance of fish was falling off. This contention was

not in accordance with practical experience.

Mr. Nickerson became quite emphatic and rather critical as to the practical value of the scientific findings. It seemed that figures were lying.

Mr. Allen reminded Mr. Nickerson that time after time he had been invited to go over the records and figures of the International Fisheries Commission.

Mr. Daulton informed the meeting that it had been found that the catch of halibut per skate of year, the production of eggs and the measurement of length of fish were diminishing during the last year or so. Particularly, Area No. 2, it was felt, could not stand any increase in fishing.

### Move Area Boundary

The suggestion was also raised of an adjustment of the boundary between Area No. 2 and Area No. 3 which might tend to equalize the situation as between Canadian and American fleets.

George Anderson advanced the suggestion that more attention be paid by the Commission to protection of young fish and that nursery measures might be adopted, particularly at Goose Island.

In closing the hearing, Mr. Patmore promised full consideration of the recommendations which had been made. "We know your problems and difficulties and have your interests at heart," he said. "Do not believe we do not think of these questions from the economic as well as the scientific and biological standpoints."

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