

# Waterfront Whiffs

### All Set For Sockeye Fishing This Week-end—Many Canadian Vessels In Area Three

At 6 p.m. Sunday the curtain will lift on another phase of the annual fishing drama when the sockeye season on the Naas and Skeena Rivers opens. Sockeye, the top grade in canned salmon, is also the earliest of the gillnet-caught salmon to run up the rivers to their spawning grounds. From June 29 until September,

seven canneries in the Prince Rupert area will be busy with the canning of sockeye, pinks, chums, coho and other varieties. The operations will employ thousands of fishermen and cannery workers.

Reports from both the Skeena and the Naas indicate that there will be good runs of sockeye on both rivers. Given two or three weeks of fair weather, the season will be off to an excellent start. So far, more than 500 gillnet licenses have been issued for the Skeena and 100 for the Naas. More licenses will be taken out as the season gets under way. Last year, there were 378 gillnet licenses issued for the

Skeena and 173 for the Naas River. Fishermen anticipate that the number of boats on the rivers this year will at least equal the number last year.

The seven canneries in the Prince Rupert area will be operating during the salmon season which opens on the rivers Sunday night are the Francis Miller Cannery at Seal Cove, Nelson Bros., Port Edward, Inverness, North Pacific, Sunnyside and Cassiar in the Skeena Slough and Carlisle on the south bank of the Skeena. It is reported that the Millard cannery will be more active this year than previously and that, in

order to provide additional quarters for workers, the two remaining wartime staff houses and dining hall on Hays Cove Circle have been bought by the company. These will be demolished on their present sites and other types of buildings erected near the cannery.

Reports from Vancouver, where a negotiating committee of the organized fishermen on the coast, both native and white, has been dealing with the Salmon Cannery Operating Committee for 1947 gillnet-caught salmon prices, tell of the settlement this week of the price schedule. For sockeye, the fishermen will receive 15 cents a pound for all areas, which is an increase over last year's prices. The agreement of pinks and chum prices opened the way for the start of the sockeye fishing on the opening date tomorrow night.

A "fair" run of spring salmon is reported on the Skeena River although it is not as good as it would have been had the weather been brighter. The same holds for the off-shore trolling grounds where catches have been lighter than the original heavy run warrants. Dark weather sends the fish down into the deep water and consequently, they avoid the trolling hooks and gillnets.

Last week it was reported that 38 vessels of the Canadian halibut fleet had cleared for Area

Three to continue the halibut fishery in the Gulf of Alaska. The earlier contingent during the last few days has been joined by 28 more boats, making this the greatest number of Canadian boats fishing halibut in Area Three for years. This is more than offset by a reduction in the number of American boats which are strike-bound in Seattle. The boats which have gone out during the last week are Fredella III, P. Doiron, Lois N. Cape Beale, Capella, Vinetta Prince, Scot Head, Western Spirit, Dollina, Elva M. B.C. Rover, Prosperity A. Melville, Northern Breeze, Annie Tuck, Tapla, Selma H. Pacific Belle, Waterfall, Strafen, Advance II, Domino II, Northforland, Wiking, Oldfield, Tramp and Gibson.

The purchase of a portion of this year's B.C. coast salmon pack, possibly as much as 500,000 cases is being negotiated by the British government. Prices involved are not known, but negotiations with packing companies were carried on by a British government representative in Vancouver last week.

Canadian Pacific steamer Princess Louise, Capt. P. L. Leslie, was in Port Friday morning, northbound, with 240 passengers, none of which disembarked for Prince Rupert. Destinations of many of the travellers was Skagway and Juneau, while a number were round-trippers.

The U.S.S. Iowa, visiting Vancouver, in the course of a training cruise, is a battle ship of 53,900 tonnage, and is rated the largest vessel to ever enter that port. Her length is 887 feet over all. She carries a complement of 1,808 officers and men. The height of her mast is 150 feet, 50 feet short of the harbor bridge span.

When the War Assets Corporation last month sold a number of surplus craft, a destroyer with a record of wartime service was numbered among the transactions. This was the former H.M.C.S. "Gatineau" and was bought in Victoria to be cut up for scrap. The sales for May totalled \$732,000.

A threatened strike of barge warehousemen in Vancouver has been averted by an increase of two cents an hour effective July 1, and an additional three cents an hour effective the first of October. The present wage scale is 85 cents an hour.

LLANTRISANT, Glamorgan, Wales ©—A former home of a colliery managing director, 180-acre Lanelay Hall, is to be converted into a miner's rehabilitation centre.

# Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.J.

A fellow who earned a living with a lead pencil attended a Dominion Day railway excursion to Terrace, umpteen years ago. The morning was chill and grey. Rain was due any minute. Ten miles out, a hint of brighter skies was not unwelcome and further along mist and clouds began peeling off the peaks. Terrace was hot, sunshiny and cheerful. We observed in a dining room, generous-sized pitchers of cream and great bowls of strawberries. No stint, anywhere! It made the perfect start for what became an afternoon and evening of unqualified enjoyment.

Well, how times do change! Here's an item in The Empire dated June 27, 1907 (that's forty years ago), which says "there are no fewer than five trans-

portation companies doing business in the fair young city. Five wheelbarrows engaged in commerce, to be explicit.

How the Indian bandmen surprised and intrigued Prince Rupert's early citizens who had never heard of them prior to the first observances of Dominion Day? In their most extravagant fancies, they ever suspected native musicians wearing gorgeous uniforms and fondling costly instruments so far in the untrodden north. Fresh from down East, they could not picture melody on the march over streets which existed more in theory than actuality. So they wrote home and told about it. As a matter of fact, the Indians had a good deal to do with putting a kick into the national "blow-out."

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