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SKEENA MEMBER
Continued from Page 1)

ing industry during these years grew in importance, providing the main source of industrial payroll which is still the case today.

With the coming of World War II, Prince Rupert played an important role in the defence of Alaska. Our neighbors, the Americans, appreciated their supply lines could be shortened by directing supplies through this city. Existing facilities were improved and the highway was completed connecting Prince Rupert to the Interior highway system. During the war years, a total of twelve and one-half million tons of American war supplies passed through the seaport of Prince Rupert; naval and merchant vessels were built in its shipyard, and the fishing industry kept up its production. The population of Prince Rupert was 6,000 in 1939 and today is about 9,000.

I envision that, when world conditions allow trade to flow between North America and the Orient, the strategic geographical location of Prince Rupert will once more be appreciated through providing the most

economical route being two sailing days closer to the Orient than southern seaports.

Value of Fish

Earlier I mentioned the fact that the Prince Rupert area has been dependent on the fishing industry since its early days. Few people realize that 44% of the total raw fish production for British Columbia is taken from the waters of District 2, which is the Northern British Columbia coast. This percentage is based on the 1948 production. In 1948, the gross value of raw fish from the Northern region totalled \$14,362,254, being the amount paid to the fishermen. The provincial total for the same period was \$32,643,650.

In 1949, Prince Rupert handled approximately 42½ million pounds of Canadian halibut and 1½ million pounds of American halibut. Prince Rupert is the largest single port in the halibut business in the world and there is more of a concentration of freezer space to handle the products of the sea than in any other city. The Skeena River, 20 miles from Prince Rupert, is a heavy producer of fish products mainly in the form of canned salmon, and fillets. Former waste is manufactured into meal, oil and fertilizer.

Mining in the north has greatly increased in importance, particularly in the past few years. The Shabak-Premier Gold Mine, which shut down in July 1948, commenced reopening in late August, 1949, and shipments commenced in January of this year. At present, 200 men are employed. The sum of \$2,000,000 was spent on the Torbit Silver Mine near Alice Arm to bring it into production. A 400-ton mill is in operation and 200 men are employed—first shipment was made in February, 1948. It is expected production will be two million ounces of silver per annum. The Silver Standard Mine near Hazelton started production in early 1948. The possibilities of uranium in this same area is being prospected. The growing importance of mining in the north is also indicated by the fact that scouts and engineers from all the major mining companies throughout Canada and United States are keeping close contact with prospects and developments in this area. Also, just recently, the Consolidated Mining and Smelting opened an

Exploration Office in Prince Rupert which will assist still further the mining interests. It is encouraging to note the rebirth of mining interests in the north country, considerable of which has not been prospected.

The largest of all industries in British Columbia is our forest products and I might say that the northern coast contributes very substantially. There are large stands of accessible timber which is good size and quality, due to the

favorable climatic conditions which keep the forests green and tend to reduce fire hazard to a minimum.

In 1948, the Coast section of the Prince Rupert Forest District produced 174,393,000 feet board measure of sawlogs and 71,423 linear feet of poles, pilings and mine timbers. The combined value from this district amounted to \$5,950,000 in the unfinished state. Further, it is estimated that 55% of the sawlog production was shipped out of the northern coastal district for manufacture elsewhere.

Fifty seven and a half percent of the total sawlog production of the coast section of the Prince Rupert Forest District was scaled on the Queen Charlotte Islands. These Islands scaled 100,249,000 F.B.M. with an estimated value of \$3,420,000 of which 1,601,000 F.B.M. was manufactured on the Island. 30,851,000 F.B.M. delivered to the Ocean Falls Pulp and Paper mill and 67,769,000 F.B.M. was shipped out of the district for manufacture. The balance of 328,000 F.B.M. was abandoned in the woods.

It is quite natural to expect that logging operations frequently precede manufacturing operations in an area. However, at the same time, it is quite evident that the industries of the south are having to depend more and more on the forest products of the north.

This is evidenced by the fact that sawlog production in the north is increasing. Yet in 1948 55% of the total production on the North Coast district left that district for manufacture elsewhere. I feel that, under the present attitude of decentralization, forest product industries should be encouraged to establish in the areas which produce the raw product and which would encourage industry to the Queen Charlotte Islands and the northern coast.

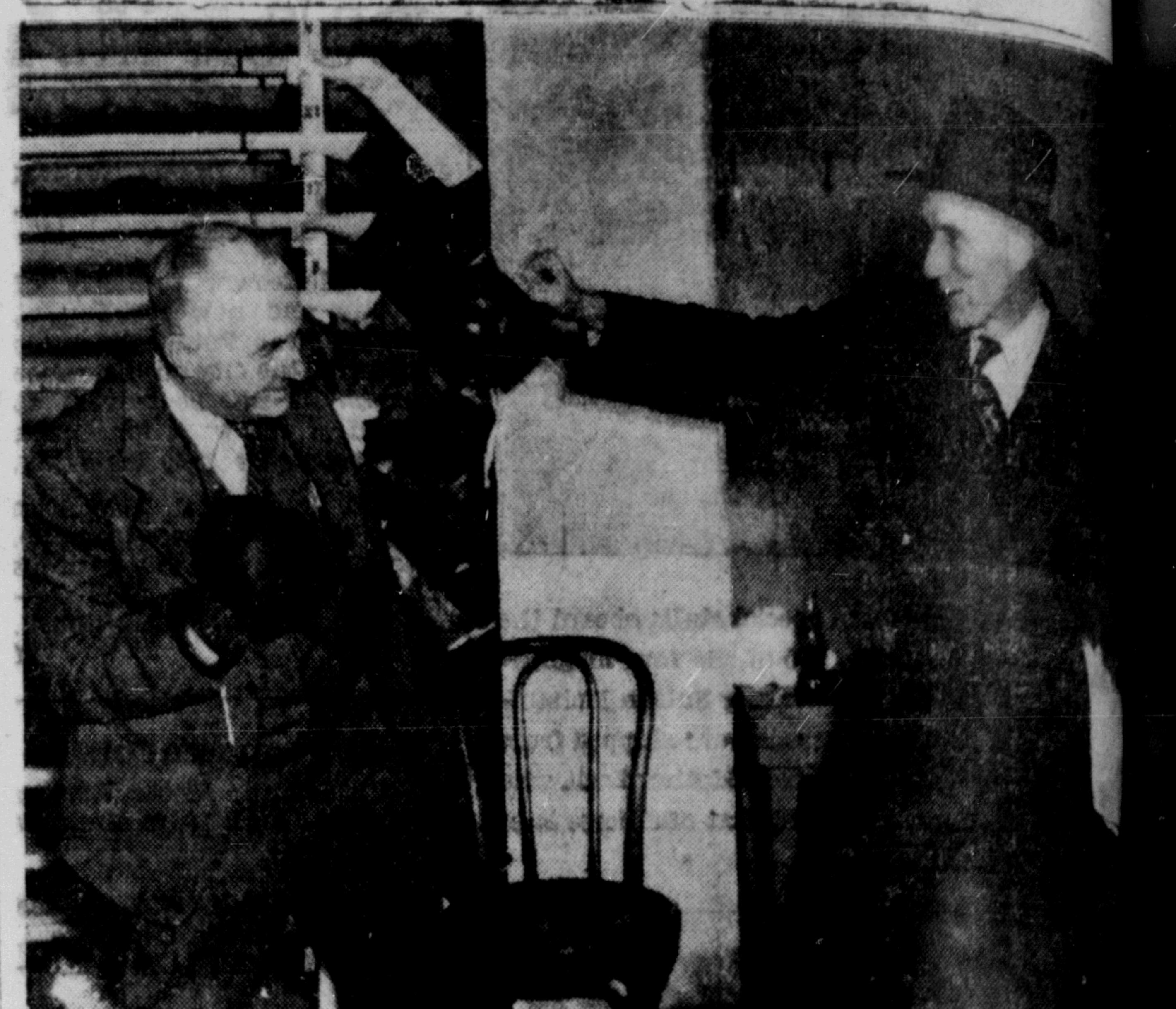
The Pulp Mill

Prince Rupert for years had hoped that a pulp mill would be established in the vicinity of that city. I can assure you that it was with great pleasure that the North received the news that a forest industry, a pulp mill, would be established by the Columbia Cellulose on Watson Island just twelve miles from Prince Rupert. I might say that construction during the past year has advanced favorably and in about one year the plant should be in operation. This development represents a twenty five million dollar investment and, when completed, will provide a steady payroll for about one thousand men in the mill and woods.

It is fitting at this time to pause for a moment and pay tribute to the efforts of one gentleman who, I feel, contributed very substantially to the final decision of this pulp industry to settle in Watson Island. Furthermore, his Department's policy of "Forestry Management Licenses" has given a feeling of security to the invested capital. I feel this Legislature is well acquainted with other achievements of this same gentleman—and I refer to the Honorable Minister of Lands and Forests.

This province needs industry, and I feel certain that everyone in this province appreciates the efforts and negotiations which have been carried on by the Honorable Minister in connection with the consideration of the Aluminum Company of Canada to establish a plant for the production of aluminum on our Coast. The success of these negotiations to date is shown by the fact that the survey parties and engineers were in the Nootka area during the past year and further work will be done during 1950. Should the Aluminum Company of Canada decide to establish in British Columbia, everyone can appreciate the effect it will have on our industrial outlook.

Furthermore, should the test holes being drilled on Queen Charlotte Islands by Royalite prove that oil in quantity is available—it would be a bonanza to this province—oil available at tide-water. Besides being rich in material natural resources, Northern British Columbia possesses another natural resource, and I refer to the natural beauty attractive to the tourists. Tourists arrive from all parts of North America to partake of the scenery of Northern British Columbia with its snow-capped mountains, green timbered slopes, lakes



NEW FASHION—That sockerino Coach Charlie (One Punch) Conacher handed to Detroit Writer Lew Walter seems to have started something in dressquette. Here Baz O'Meara of Montreal Star, despite a little surplus poundage, showed up in Montreal Canadiens' dressing room well prepared. Coach Dick Irvin, handed, starts a lethal swing from an unorthodox left-handed stance. In the background, Gravelle of Les Canadiens can be seen taking things far more seriously than the press.

United States with Alaska using for the logs from the Cariboo Highway to Prince George—then Highway 16 west to Prince Rupert with a ferry service operating between Prince Rupert and Alaskan ports. At Haines, Alaska, contact would be made with the expanding Highway system of Alaska. The Commissioner for Roads for Alaska, to co-ordinate his plan, needs the co-operation of our Government in establishing this ferry service—and further, the co-operation of our provincial government is required in putting Highway 16 in first class condition, thereby completing the Alaska to United States route which, apart from industry, would draw thousands of American tourists into the north country.

In the past, possibly the traffic did not warrant anything different but the time has now come that the Government would be warranted in making appropriation for the strengthening, re-locating, as necessary, and black-topping of the highway east of Prince Rupert. Furthermore, industry will require an open road summer and winter.

British Columbia is a maritime province with a rugged 7,000 mile coast line, most of which is accessible only by water. Gales and storms which are not always predictable frequently lash at our coast. With increasing traffic there has been a definite increase of shipwrecks and loss of life at sea. In view of the fact that our B.C. coast is the highway of trade to the north and south—the carrier

Electoral Act
I would like to mention the Election Act and the closing of the session of the Legislative Assembly. The Government, in a wise and prudential manner, took the lead of this province by extending the election act to include all of the districts of British Columbia, thus giving the people of the province a larger percentage of representation which would be of such a service.

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