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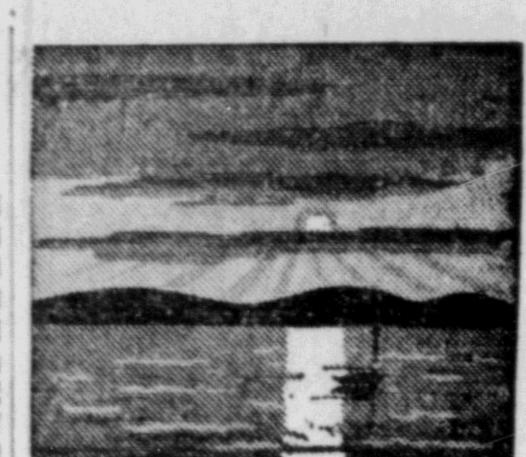
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SIXTH STREET and THIRD AVENUE



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Waterfront

TO FISH OR NOT TO FISH—TUNA HUNT ON AGAIN.

Gillnet and seine fishermen on the Skeena and Naas Rivers have decided not to start this week-end, pending final settlement between the cannery com- cruise. Later in the evening at Pritchard, who was for many panies and the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' 9 o'clock the Catala, Capt. Ern- years in charge of this work, Union of a schedule of prices for their fish.

The sockeye season will open on the Naas and Skeena at of 55 degrees. Minimum tem- couver and waypoints. midnight, Sunday and since so perature inhabited by tuna, acfar an accord is not reached, is 57 degrees. no nets will go into the water at that time.

Basis of the dispute, which also involves the negotiating committee of the Native Brotherhood of B. C., acting for the Indian fishermen, is not the sockeye price, but the price offered for pinks and chums which will be fished later. However, the fishermen want the whole price schedule settled befor the season begins.

Prices sought by the fishermen are last year's minimums: pinks, (average) 7 cents; chums (average) 61/4 cents; coho, 14 cents, sockeye 18 cents.

Major differences now are in he pink and chum prices and whether or not settlement will be reached by the official opening of the season, time alone

Actual number of boats which will fish on the Skeena this year is not known at present, but it is expected that it will be as many as 700 gillnetters were large as former years when as operating.

Opening of the Naas and Skeena on June 19 is a departure from previous custom, being a week earlier than usual. Another departure is to redefine the Naas river gillnet area to include Port Simpson harbor which has been closed to gillnetting for the last 15 years.

Spring salmon gillnetters on the Skeena river found better fishing this week fater a discouraging period when bad weather and absence of fish made things difficult. Size of the week's catch was not reported, but it is said to be considerably better than the previous week. There are about 100 boats on the river.

The big question facing deep sea fishermen at the present time is: Will tuna show up off this coast this summer? The answer, so far, according to Capt. Lewellyn Sheppard of the fisheries protection vessel Laurier, is that they have not made an appearance yet-

But Capt. Sheppard and Inspector Art Touchings, who is in charge of the investigation, are not worried yet. They pointed out Wednesday that, since there has been no previous investigation at this time of year, it cannot be known what time the fish might ordinarily approach ne Queen Charlottes.

In addition to being immediately valuable to the fishernen by sending out daily reports from the areas they cruise, the investigation is of longterm importance in discovering the movements and habits of the fish which last year made their first recorded appearance off the Islands.

At no time during their cruise, from the Washington coast to that new home under | Langara Island did they counter water above a temperature

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McBRIDE STREET

IN SKEENA SUPPORT

push the warm Japanese cur- | Milne arrived at the first of this | rent eastward will determine week from Nanaimo and left how close inshore the tuna will on Wednesday for Terrace. He come. Since the westerlies pre- was accompanied by Vic Aro. vail most strongly in the sum- Others are already two parties mer months, it may be some in the field, six at Lakelse Lake weeks before the mass of warm where fences are being put in ater moves close to shore—if at Williams and Scully Creeks

Bound for south Quen Char- being renewed. High School lotte Island ports, Union steamer boys are also being put on at Coquitlam, Capt. William Mc- canneries on the lower Skeena Combe, docked here at 1 p.m. for checking purposes. The 1949 Friday on her weekly sailing work marks the commencement from Vancouver. She had a rel- of another five year research atively light passenger list but program on salmon natural hiscarried a half-dozen round tory, particularly sockeye. Dr. trippers enjoying a north coast Milne takes over from Dr. A. L. est Sheppard, arrived, sailing at having pioneered it from the midnight on her return to Van- start, and who has now gone to

cording to last year's findings, To take charge of the Fisher- ment with headquarters at ies Research Board's summer Ottawa. It is believed that the ex- program of Skeena River saltent to which westerly winds mon investigations, Dr. D. J.

and two on Babine Lake where the fence for adult salmon is

another important post in the service of the fisheries depart-

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TODAY 7 - 9 p.m.

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'ESCAPE'

A. J. Squires, steamboat in- Armine Boas, province spector, after a brief visit here tarian, sailed last night on official business, sailed last Coquitlam for a trip to night by the Catala on his re- Charlotte City on offici turn to Vancouver.

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