

## Fishing Closure Ordered

VICTORIA (CP)—A record concentration of fishing vessels which reaped an enormous harvest of pink salmon forced the fisheries department to impose a special one-day closure in the Johnstone Straits this week.

A. J. Whitmore, chief supervisor of fisheries, announced Thursday that up to Sept. 5 approximately 4,000,000 pink salmon were caught in the area compared to the 1951 total of 1,600,000.

A total of 291 seiners, largest fleet ever to assemble in any British Columbia fishing area, combined with 375 gillnetters to reap the harvest.

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RED SKELTON CUTS a huge slice of birthday cake for his actor friends, who joined in the Hotel Sahara's birthday party for the comedian in Las Vegas. Spike Jones, Herb Shriner, Anne Marie Alberghetti, open-mouthed Milton Berle, Mrs. Skelton and Vic Damone wonder who'll be getting that huge portion.

## Trollers, Gillnetters Fail To Make Great Deal of Headway Side by Side

By LARRY STANWOOD

As most of Prince Rupert's waterfront activity concerns itself with commercial fishing, a few notes on this primary B.C. industry may not be amiss here. In all, salmon fishing this season has been and still is slack compared to previous years. Skeena River gillnetters, especially, have been hard hit with few fish hitting their nets. A good day now would be 20 fish, mixed cohoes and chums.

Further north, around Dundas Island, Wales and Hogan Islands and in the Port Simpson area, fishing for cohoes has been much better. Even so, trollers and drift netters alike are finding it difficult to pick up a good pay-load. Earlier in the season, towards the end of August, several "highliners" among the trollers put in \$100-

days along Coho Rocks near Boat Harbor on Dundas but these fishermen complained they were "hamstrung" by the gillnetters who have been admitted into the area this season for the first time.

Trollers say that they and the net boats just can't work together in one area, for gillnetters may drift their gear side by side for miles and so tie up any amount of fishing grounds for the trollers who can't cross the nets with their lines.

Not unless they wish to entertain a fate similar to one troller who decided not to be harbor-bound by the netters and set out with all his gear down. A morning fog settled and before the troller knew it, he was dragging some boat's net, enmeshed in his six lines and lures, his prop and shaft.

A quantity of the gillnetter's gear came free with the aid of a sharp knife. The troller spent the next two days straightening out his own gear.

Scarcity of salmon this year is blamed in some quarters on the lack of conservation measures in the neighborhood waters of Alaska which are practically within shouting distance of some of B.C.'s most prolific salmon grounds.

Most likely, the greatest predation on the salmon fisheries in the Northern Pacific are the Alaskan fish traps which have been operating in strategic areas for the past 40 years.

These salmon traps which net school fish by the thousands in one day are operated by U.S. canneries but, ironically enough, few of the canneries are reaping the intended profits from these unscrupulous methods.

Not only is Alaska seeing its worst year in the industry this season, but for many years salmon "pirates" have been pillaging the company traps, then selling to loot back to the legal owners.

Pirates work something like this: Usually, they are seine-boat owners, sometimes packers. In the beginning of the season, the captains made "deals" with

the trap watchmen, offering to pay them in cash a few cents for each fish taken out of the traps while the watchmen make like ostriches, or suddenly get dogs of black flies in their eyes.

Pirates work in the dark, pick up their lead fist with their bailers, and head for the canneries where they demand and get full price for their spectacular "catches."

And it doesn't pay the trap watchman to be too honest. If he doesn't make a deal, he's as likely or not to be held up at gunpoint.

Furthermore, while the companies know full well what's going on, they are slow to complain or press charges. No new trap licences are being granted by the U.S. government and many are being cancelled. Companies fear that too much hullabaloo about their traps would result in a similar fate for them.

Even with the ravages of the pirates, the traps provide a share of free fish for the canneries.

### LAST WORD

Ever see a fish sweat? Peter Leighton, well-known retired Metlakatla fisherman, swears he has, and recently imparted the following account of his experience to a group of ardent sportsmen doctors in the city.

"I was trolling in the mouth of the Metlakatla Pass," related Peter, "when one pole jiggled hard, I began to bring in the line on my gurdie but the fish fought hard. In fact, if I wished to save him I had to play him just like a sports fisherman does with his rod and reel.

"I gave the salmon more line, then worked him back to the boat. I did this many times, all the while heading for Prince Rupert. I finally brought him to gaff at Cow Bay. He was a big Spring, over 30 pounds, and as he lay on the deck I could see the glistening beads of perspiration rolling down his sides."

### Costly Weeds

VEGREVILLE, Alta. (CP)—A farmer in this district was fined \$50 and costs for allowing weeds to grow on his land. He had previously been ordered by an inspector to get rid of the weeds. In addition, he was ordered to destroy about 25 acres of crop that was overgrown with weeds.

Prince Rupert Daily News  
Saturday, September 12, 1953

## BLACKWOOD on Bridge

By EASLEY BLACKWOOD

### Masters' Cool Defence Sets Slam Contract

Although Miss Brash's hand was a minimum as far as high cards are concerned, her seven card length in hearts prompted her to jump rebid in that suit in today's deal. This in turn prompted Mr. Hein-site to bid a grand slam after checking on aces.

Miss Brash went down two and of course Mr. Hein-site said she should have made it. She could have made it if she had been able to see her opponents' hands—or if her opponents had made it easy for her.

I show you this hand to illustrate the extreme importance of remaining calm and cool when defending in a ticklish situation like this one.

Mr. Masters realized early he probably held the key cards in the queen of spades and the queen of clubs. Not only his play but his demeanor was perfect throughout the hand.

His opening lead was the king of spades and Miss Brash won with the ace. She led to the ace of diamonds, returned a diamond and ruffed it.

She then led to the ace of hearts and ruffed another diamond. Another heart to dummy's king and another ruff of a diamond cleared that suit.

Mr. Masters had to discard on these last two tricks. He did not fumble or hesitate but dropped the deuce and four of clubs.

Now Miss Brash cashed her last two hearts. Mr. Masters calmly discarded the six of clubs and the trey of spades. Mr. Dale let go the five of spades, then false-carded with the nine of spades to prevent Miss Brash from getting an accurate count on that suit.

Next came a small club to dummy's king and of course Mr. Masters followed suit with the nine. When the queen of diamonds was led from the board, Mr. Dale dropped the 10 of

South dealer Both sides vulnerable		
North (Mr. Hein-site)		
S-7	H-A K 5	D-A Q 8 6 5
C-K 8 5		
West (Mr. Masters)		
S-K Q 6 3	H-10 9 8 5 2	D-9 3
H-6	H-9 3	D-K 10 7 3
D-J 4 2	H-10 7 3	C-10 3
C-Q 9 6 4 2		
East (Miss Brash)		
S-A 4	H-Q J 10 8 7 4 2	D-9
H-10 7 3	H-10 7 3	C-A J 7
The bidding:		
South	West	North
1H	Pass	2D
3H	Pass	4NT
5H	Pass	7H
		All pass

spades, Miss Brash the four of spades, and Mr. Masters the six of spades.

Of course, the squeeze had operated before this trick. That is, if Mr. Masters had held onto a guard for his queen of clubs, he would have had to let go of his last spade. And that would have set up dummy's jack of spades.

Yes, Miss Brash had a true squeeze, all right—but she didn't know it. After long thought she led a club and finessed the jack, going down two when Mr. Masters cashed his two black queens.

Mr. Masters had been in quite a spot. And don't you think the result would have been different if he had resorted to head-shaking, ear-pulling and a general air of pitiful resignation throughout the play?

## Alberta Oil to Start Through Line Oct. 1

VANCOUVER (CP)—A thin stream of black gold will begin to flow across the Canadian Rockies on or about Oct. 1, tapping the oil fields of Alberta for the rapidly-increasing needs of the west coast.

Trans Mountain Pipeline Company has set that date to open its 718-mile line, stretching from nine miles east of Edmonton to Burnaby Mountain, near here, and tidewater.

Just what the development will mean to British Columbia probably will not be known until the operation is well under way.

One oil official, stressing the importance of the pipeline, estimated B.C.'s yearly consumption as one-eighth of the Canadian total, with a population of one one-twelfth.

Although recent figure were not available, he said B.C.'s demand a year ago was 54,100 barrels monthly compared to 465,200 for all of Canada.

Imperial Oil, the biggest company here, will open its enlarged refinery Sept. 16, capable of handling 22,500 barrels of crude oil daily, compared to the current 12,000 barrels.

A pipeline spokesman said the

24-inch line will carry 120,000 barrels a day when it opens, with three pumping stations along the way. Approximately Dec. 1, a fourth station will increase capacity to 150,000.

The \$94,000,000 pipeline will be tapped at Kamloops, in the B.C. interior. In addition, an offshoot line will in time feed refineries in Washington state.

"Published tariff rate" for carrying the oil over the pipeline will be 45 cents a barrel from Edmonton to Burnaby, and 2½ cents a barrel for loading tankers.

LONDON (CP)—On Scotland Yard's list of most-wanted persons for two years has been an angular-faced, woman thief. She takes a job as a servant, then takes the money and jewels.

NARVIK, Norway (CP)—Shipments from this northern Norwegian port reached a record of 946,000 tons in July. Previous record of 872,000 tons was set in April last year.

SUNDAY AT MIDNIGHT  
WM. MARSHALL GAIL PATRICK IN "STARDUST and SWEET MUSIC"  
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