

THE FISHERIES IN B.C.

SHOULD CANADA KEEP ALL HER OWN SALMON?

Canners on Pacific Coast Are Feeling Alarmed Regarding Situation Because Catch Is Lessening and Last Year a Million Fresh Fish Went Across the Line to the United States.

COMMERCIAL fishing on the Pacific Coast is carried on in several ways. Trawling is yet in its infancy as far as British Columbian waters are concerned, last season having witnessed the operation of the first steam trawler which has ever been placed in commission here, but the success of this venture was so immediate that it is certain that this method of fishing will be resorted to far more widely in the near future, since splendid catches of sole, flounder, cod, and other deep sea fishes were made whenever this vessel put out to sea.

Fishing for halibut which is carried on almost exclusively in the more northerly waters of the province, and which has developed to such an extent that to-day it is second only in point of value to the salmon fishery, is done by the use of very long and immensely strong lines, to which are attached at regular intervals, hundreds of hooks baited with small herring. The vessels engaged in the halibut fishery are of necessity of large size, since they are compelled to go considerable distances in search of the fish, and frequently remain at sea for weeks at a time. The crew of a halibut vessel numbers as a rule from ten to fifteen men, and it is nothing exceptional for each of them to receive several hundred dollars as his share of the profits from a single voyage, for profit sharing is the rule among halibut fishermen. Unfortunately, although enormous quantities of this fine fish are landed every year, for some seasons past there has been a gradual but steady falling off in the number of fish taken. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that there has been little effort made to locate new halibut banks, while the fishing which has been going on over the known fishing grounds, has been so intensive a nature, that it must have had considerable effect upon the supply. In 1918 the total catch was 37 per cent. less than it had been in 1915, while in 1917 the decrease only amounted to 5 per cent. However, the most notable falling off is to be noted for the season of 1918, when in spite of every effort on the part of the fishermen to maintain production at as high a level as possible, only 1,902,000 pounds were landed at Vancouver as against 5,182,000 pounds in 1917, while at Steveston only 16,000 pounds in all were landed. Pricey Rupert also shows a very large decrease in the amount of halibut landed in 1918, the falling off amounting to no less than 2,801,560 pounds. This decrease is amply sufficient to justify the alarm which has been felt lest the halibut fishery is becoming a thing of the past.

The question of the export of fresh fish to the United States has always been a burning one, and has led to more heated arguments than even perhaps the controversy regarding the respective merits of the various forms of net. If fish are exported to the United States for immediate sale as fresh food, there can be no possible objection to the practice, and indeed there is much that can be said in favor of such exportation. The spring salmon is without any doubt a fish that should be eaten fresh rather than canned, and in this condition is a delicacy which even the most bloated plutocrat may well be proud to see upon his table. The great drawback hitherto to the shipping of these fish in proper condition to points in the east, has been the lack of refrigerator cars, and now that there seems to be every prospect of this difficulty being removed, a very large trade should unquestionably be worked up. But the export of salmon for this class of trade is not the difficulty. More than a million fresh fish were shipped to the United States last year for canning purposes only, the Puget Sound canneries getting the benefit of this trade, while our own Canadian canneries were unable to obtain all the fish that they could have handled. It has been estimated that in the year 1916 alone no less than 16,000,000 pounds of British Columbia salmon was sold to American canneries, and this, it is claimed, would have meant a net gain to Canada of more than half a million dollars if these fish had been canned in this country instead of being exported for packing across the line. The secretary of the Cannery Association is authority for the statement that the canning machinery installed in the Fraser river canneries, working for eight hours a day, could have put up all the salmon which was packed on the river during the season of 1916, in two and a half days, but as fourteen canneries did not operate at all during that season, the remainder of those actually operating could have put up the total pack in three and a half days of eight hours each. Had the export of this 16,000,000 pounds of fish to the United States canneries been prohibited, it is obvious that our own canneries must have very largely benefited through being enabled to operate at full capacity through a longer period.

Precious Metals.

Ontario, which has already produced 200,000,000 ounces of silver, and has the greatest gold mines in Canada, continues to make progress as a mineral producer. The total production of the Nipissing mine last year was 50,000,000 ounces of silver. The total dividends paid since the first payment in 1906 amount to almost \$18,000,000.

14th Regt. War Record.

Applications for Guard of Honor for the Prince of Wales and 14th Regimental registration of war service in Canada or overseas at Orderly Room in Armouries, 3-12.45 and 2-5 daily. Evenings of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

A Diplomat is a man who shuts up when he has said enough.

CANADA'S TRADE.

Figures Must Be Altered to Restore Value of Dollar.

Canadian trade statistics for the first half of the calendar year appear to indicate that while the adverse balance in trade with the United States is still unfortunately large conditions in this respect are at any rate better than they were in the corresponding period of 1918. That is, Canada has been selling a greater value of goods to the United States, and importing a less value. There has been a marked falling off in exports as well as imports since March, however, the decline in imports being perhaps due to the high rate of exchange, which has led to the cancellation of many orders. The figures from Ottawa follow:

Table with columns for IMPORTS and EXPORTS, with sub-columns for 1918 and 1919, listing monthly and total values.

\$189,665,691 \$196,467,038

From these figures it will be seen that the adverse balance of trade against Canada the first half of 1918 was \$185,512,350, while for the corresponding period of this year it was \$134,168,608. The balance must be still further reduced if the value of the Canadian dollar is to be restored. The discouraging feature of this year's trade is the falling off in exports since March. Canada must produce more—not only enough to supply her own people, but to afford a larger surplus for sale abroad.

The Influenza in Labrador.

The ravages of the Spanish influenza in Labrador during the past winter and the many deaths in that portion of North America have created a new problem to be met by the friends of the Labrador mission. In a letter from Dr. Wilfred Grenfell an account is given of the effect of the influenza epidemic in the Sandwich Bay district of Labrador. Twenty per cent. of the population perished as a result of the illness. Dr. Grenfell gives a long list of the dead and adds: "As these Labrador settlements are very small, each one generally consisting of a few houses, some idea can be gained of the catastrophe to that part of the country. The distances are great between places and families, and the difficulties of the doctor and nurse traveling over that area are almost insurmountable. The point that I should like to emphasize in this connection is the pressing need for care for the orphan children who are left as a result of this epidemic. A number of men left young families, and in several cases both parents were taken. Our present orphanage, besides being so poorly constructed and difficult to run, is full to capacity, and we are at our wits' end to meet the problem of caring for so many helpless children."

Canada's Credit.

Canada's credit stands high. A reputation for sound financial methods during the war has been of inestimable benefit to the Dominion. Behind this stands also the realization of her immense natural resources and the fact that on the North American continent she is almost the sole remaining outlet for new settlement on a large scale. Within the new decade or two she will probably receive millions of the best class of immigrants, and these will make her per capita burdens light. The net public debt of Canada stands to-day at 1,500 million dollars. Seventy-five per cent. of it is due to Canadians. Weighed against her natural resources it is not heavy. It must also be taken into account that among her other assets Canada now owns 14,000 miles of railway.

Maple Products.

Reports from various maple districts in Eastern Canada show that the maple products this year will beat all records. The makers of maple sugar and syrup in Canada exceed 45,000. About 550,000 acres of land are being used on a large scale in wooded state, of which two-thirds are situated in the Province of Quebec. The Eastern Townships of Quebec are the centre of the world's supply of maple products. Maple syrup is rapidly becoming known in Great Britain as a table delicacy, while maple sugar is finding favor as a sweet-meat.

Loans to Soldiers.

The latest figures given out by the Soldier Settlement Board show that up till the 26th of July the board had approved \$620 loans, aggregating \$21,311,425.

The figures of the agricultural training branch of the board indicate that 25,722 applications had been received, of which 19,558 had been approved.

He Blundered.

Blank is the greatest blunderer in making excuses we ever knew. The other day a lady he did not particularly care for met him and said: "We shall be back from the beach pretty soon, and I'd be glad to have you come and lunch with us. Suppose we make it Thursday, three weeks from to-day. Wishing to get away from it, Blank stammered: "Allow me to see—three weeks from to-day, you say? Oh, I shall be going to a funeral on that day."

Boat Houses Burned.

Cobourg, Oct. 4.—An early morning blaze, the origin of which is not known, destroyed four boat houses near the East Pier here, and the government storage house was badly scorched. Several canoes and boats were burned. The boat houses were owned by Messrs. Kent Payne, Bert Clark, Jack Huycke and Charles McDonough. Each has insurance of about \$100.

The Cough Syrup that Stops the Cough

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Alcoholic Insanity Disappears

Our Foremost Alienist Says It Has Now Practically Vanished

"SINCE the passage of the Ontario Temperance Act Alcoholic Insanity has practically disappeared," says Dr. C. K. Clarke, Canada's foremost Alienist.

Dr. Clarke's statement to the Ontario Referendum Committee continues:

"ALCOHOL is one of the important factors among the causes of insanity, especially indirectly. Since the passage of the Ontario Temperance Act certain forms of insanity in this province have practically disappeared.

"The abolition of the bar has undoubtedly had a wonderful effect in protecting the weaklings in the community from temptation and inevitable degradation.

"It is much too soon to determine how far-reaching the benefits of prohibition have been, but doubtless police and jail statistics will bear testimony as to the diminution of crime.

"The removal of the bar must be regarded with satisfaction by every right-thinking person in the country, especially by those who know how easily mental weaklings and neurotics fell into deplorable habits through its malign influence.

"It was not that these persons suffered alone, but that many of the next generations lost whatever chance they had of living down the curse of a bad heredity.

"Alcohol simply intensified the defects of the parent and thus made hopeless the lives of the children."



DR. C. K. CLARKE Medical Director National Committee for Mental Hygiene, Superintendent Provincial Hospitals for the Insane, Kingston, 1881-1905 and Toronto, 1906-1911, Superintendent Toronto General Hospital, 1911-1918.

The Menace of Insanity

"Insanity is the Mad Son of Alcohol, Idiocy is its Driveling Daughter," says Vance Thompson.

ONTARIO maintains 6,000 patients in the Insane Asylums at a cost of about \$1,000,000 a year and an indirect cost of many millions more.

Ontario has one insane patient to every 417 people—not including the feeble-minded. Kansas, pioneer "dry" state of the West, has only one case to every 873 people.

The menace of insanity has alarmed government authorities and brought about the recent appointment of a National Committee for Mental Hygiene, of which Dr. C. K. Clarke is the Medical Director.

Mark Four X's

(One X under each "No")

Table with 4 rows of referendum questions and YES/NO columns. The 'NO' boxes contain an 'X'.

Do not spoil your ballot by marking it with anything but X four times.

Simply mark X after every question under word No as indicated in sample ballot.

Ontario Referendum Committee

JOHN MACDONALD, Chairman.

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ANDREW S. GRANT, Vice-Chairman and Secretary (1001 Excelsior Life Bldg., Toronto).