

## British Columbia Fisheries for British Fishermen

(I. M. Vince)

**NOTE**—Captain I. M. Vince of Vince & Co., Ltd., who contributes this article is leaving Vancouver next month for Britain to arrange for the transportation to British Columbia of a large group of British fisher folk. The firm of Fish Producers and Mill Operators of which Mr. Vince is chief, is planning to construct a community village for fifty families at Barclay Sound.

Captain Vince is a veteran of the South African war as well as of the recent war. Two of his sons also served overseas, and one of them was killed in action.

British Columbia is on the eve of great developments of its Natural Resources, and its Fisheries form one of the most important of these. Our Seas, with their 7,000 miles of Coast line, literally abound with fish of every description.

Like our Minerals, the Fishing Industry, (with perhaps the exception of salmon), has scarcely been begun, and as it is capable of immense development, it is of the greatest importance that the Industry be controlled by British Fishermen.

A great deal has been said against the Japanese, but there is another foreign element amongst our fishermen much more harmful than the Japs,—men who openly defy the King and Governments.

The British fishermen proved their loyalty and worth in the late war. When Lighthouses were darkened, and guiding Bells and Buoys were removed from the British Coast, the Fishermen navigated ships of our navy and mercantile marine and volunteered for mine sweeping, submarine chasing and coast guarding. In every way they gave of their best, cheerfully giving life itself for the Empire cause.

The British Naval Reserve is chiefly composed of British fishermen. That knowledge prompts the question—What material have we, as a great mercantile province for a naval or mercantile reserve? . . . . . We are taught to hope for the best, but to prepare for the worst, as the British Premier (Ramsay MacDonald) is now doing.

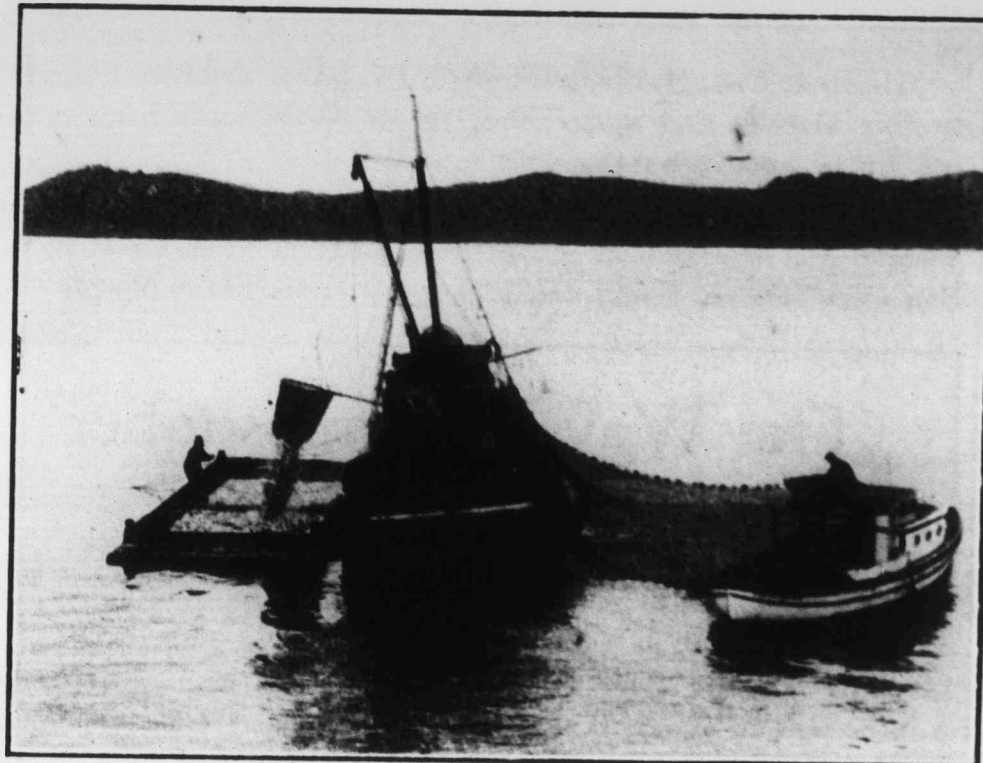
The old countries of Europe are all "shot to pieces" and their markets are demoralised. It is the more timely therefore for us to build up a great Fishing Industry. We have the raw material and the markets.

Meantime, let me deal with the Herring, which I consider the most useful Fish of all. There are other varieties of fish in great abundance all along our coast, to which I may refer later.

### PRACTICAL FISHING EXPERIENCE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Six years ago the writer started a small 2x4 Herring Saltery in Barclay Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, on land owned by the Dominion Development Company. Every dollar made in the work has been invested in improving equipment at the Saltery and developing the business. Last year a limited company was formed and we caught and packed over five thousand tons of Herrings. Pessimists predicted that these wholesale catches would deplete the Herring as the Salmon fisheries had been depleted; but that is a fallacy, because the Herring abounds in such immense quantities. The late Professor Frank Buckland (a great authority on Piscatorial matters) claimed that one herring would produce over a million eggs. The Herring fishing in the North Sea has been in operation for hundreds of years and even now fishermen frequently catch more Herring in a day than we in British Columbia do in a season,—although the Herring are equally plentiful here.

The picture reproduced here is of a snapshot taken from the deck of the C. P. R. Co.'s S.S. Princess Ena, lying at our dock in December last, showing one of our seine boats making



a haul less than a hundred yards from our dock, when she trailed in about three hundred tons of Herrings. After filling all our scows, the boat was brought alongside our dock and the Herrings trailed out of the net into the tanks. This, the writer believes can not be accomplished in any other part of the world. Had this catch been Scotch-cured, kippered or converted into Belly Cuts, it would have produced merchandise worth about ten thousand dollars. Not a bad morning's work? Now, the fact is we have the markets, but we have not enough of the right class of people to put up the goods. The merchants of Barclay Sound had orders from the Eastern States for 20,000 barrels of Scotch-cured Herring, and Belly Cuts last season, at remunerative prices, but less than 2,000 were supplied as the help was not available to cure them.

Orders were also received from Australia and New Zealand, and if Russia comes back as seems possible, there will be no limit to the demand.

Every barrel of Herring cured means an outlay of a dollar in labor alone, and all white help is employed, besides giving employment to industries for packages and other commodities required.

The Herring of the Pacific Coast will compare favorably with the best product of the North Sea and its food value is higher than any other kind of fish. It is converted to many useful purposes, being the poor man's food and a luxury to the rich.

It is as important that fishermen of British stock be established on the British Columbia coast, as it is to build grain elevators on Burrard Inlet (Vancouver City harbour) for the present development and future good of our country. Such fishermen would not only protect the fisheries for future generations, but also the Coast against a foreign foe—should occasion arise.

### A FIELD FOR BRITISH FISHER FOLK

The writer's idea is that British fishermen and their families should be brought to British Columbia—especially the Scottish fishermen, as their women folk are experts at the Herring curing in all its branches. Barclay Sound, British Columbia, is an ideal location. If such workers are located in a community village with proper accommodation, they will "make good," and be a splendid asset to this part of the Empire.

In the Barclay Sound district, Spring Salmon trolling starts at the new year, and millions of pounds are sold to the United States buyers. A large portion is also disposed of in Canada, and this continues until July and August. In Septem-