

prized of fishes. Then the oolochan (spelled in a variety of ways), sometimes called the candlefish, runs in enormous numbers at certain seasons, and is a delicious table fish, also very delicate in texture, but cured would make a very marketable "bloomer." The oil, too, of which the Indians extract great quantities and use as we use butter, if refined, should become an important article of commerce. The native oyster is small but preferred by connoisseurs to the Eastern, and no doubt by cultivation is capable of much improvement in size. Clams are found everywhere along the Coast, and at Alert Bay an industry in canning them has grown up, and the manufactured article is exceedingly good and should be everywhere saleable. These above enumerated are, of course, independent of the salmon canning industry, which has been developed on a large scale and is not capable of much further extension for the present.

The possibilities in the way of curing fish in various ways—salmon, halibut, cod, herring, "skil," sardines, oolochan, and so on—are very great and a large demand exists for such products, but which, as yet, it has been impossible to supply from this end.

Another important item is the extraction of oils. The dogfish, found following the runs of smaller fish, upon which it preys, yields from its liver and body, an oil, which, for lubricating purposes—more especially the liver oil—has no superior in the market. Two factories on the North Coast are engaged in its production and find a ready demand. The liver of the ratfish, a marine monstrosity, found with the dogfish, also yields an oil of great economic value. Sharks, whales, herring and the little oolochan are likewise valuable for their oil producing qualities.

There are various other fish products known to commerce, which it is proposed to manufacture, notably fish guano or fertilisers, in which an extensive trade has grown up.

All these things, the Commercial Company being organized, propose to undertake and much more. They will saw their lumber out of the timber on their own lands, erect their own houses, make their own shingles, barrels and boxes, build their own boats and ships and construct their own wharves; clear their own lands; prospect for and develop their own mineral properties; operate their own stores; trade with the settlements of the Coast; hunt for seal and sea otter; and generally do all and sundry all these things, which their hands find to do well and profitably for themselves and the colonists.

In such a complex industrial and commercial fabric as the one just outlined, besides being practical and founded on well known conditions of utility, it will provide for the colonists a diversity of occupation and employment, constituting an adaptation to a variety of pursuits and create labor at all seasons of the year.

An essential consideration in a scheme of the magnitude proposed will be the character of the colonists themselves, and as objections have been raised to the Crofters as a class, from whom they will be largely, if not altogether drawn, some reference to them is necessary. Morally it is a significant fact of local repute, that on the Isle of Skye there was not, in a population of 30,000 people, a single serious crime recorded in a period of 400 years. It is urged that they are lazy and unsuitable as emigrants to a new country. These objections, however, are either the result of ignorance, or are inspired by special motives. In answer, I cannot do better than quote from "the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry into the condition of the Crofters and Cottars in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland."

Sec. 224: While it is true that the "physical conditions of life in the remote parts of the districts in question, and the possibility of utilizing the means of modern progress, are far behind those of more favored