

BRITISH COLUMBIA FINANCIAL TIMES

A Journal of Finance, Commerce, Insurance, Real Estate, Timber and Mining

Vol. V. No. 17

VANCOUVER, SEPTEMBER 7, 1918

SINGLE COPY 10c
THE YEAR \$2.00

Reflections on a Northern Coast Trip

Great Possibilities for Development Along the British Columbia Coast Territory in Lumbering, Mining and Fishing—Prosperous Condition of Fishing Industry and Developments in Paper Making.

Through the courtesy of the managing director of the Union Steamship of British Columbia we took a round trip to the Skeena River canneries, Prince Rupert and way ports. No matter how often one takes a trip north the potentialities of the British Columbia coast line impresses itself on the mind and imagination of the traveller. This coast territory, although it has been traversed for one half a century is practically still in its virgin condition. The wealth of timber, the wealth of fishing and the mining possibilities are very large and hold out for future development the greatest promise. One sees little in this trip of agricultural possibilities or development except at Sointula, where there is a thriving Finnish colony, and at only a few points along the coast was agriculture attempted, and that has been only in a small and primitive way.

What industries have been established are all active and in a flourishing condition. The Powell River Company, the largest paper mill in British Columbia is working twenty-four hours each day and is either on or contemplating the erection of new units for the manufacture of newsprint. The Ocean Falls and Swanson Bay are only less busy because they have not been as far developed as the Powell River plant. At Beaver Cove on the north end of Vancouver Island the ground is being broken for the erection of another paper mill to develop the White brothers timber limits. It would appear that the forestry resources of the coast territory would support the erection of several large paper mills and innumerable logging camps and sawmills. Under proper conditions of re-forestation the making of paper and the manufacture of lumber could be carried on indefinitely.

Fishing conditions particularly on the Skeena River were very active and prosperous. It is anticipated at this early date that the season will have been the largest in the experience of the canneries in the north. On the Skeena

we saw the handling of the last of the run of chums, and even at that date records for the pack were broken. The cannerymen expect also an excellent run of fall fish, particularly of cohoes in which case the season will have established a mark which it will be difficult to surpass for several years to come.

In connection with the fishing industry it is steadily borne in on one that the catching of salmon is almost exclusively in the hands of Japanese fishermen. The canners were paying from thirty to sixty cents for fish according to conditions of fishing and the varieties caught, and these Japanese fishermen were gradually leaving the field because they either had enough money and indifferent or were holding out for higher prices for the fall fish than the cannerymen would pay. On the return voyage there were over fifty Japanese fishermen aboard who for six weeks' work were in receipt of sums ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,700. Under present conditions it is to be hoped that more white fishermen will participate in the catch of salmon. There is ample field here for the enterprise, the vigor and the hardihood of the white man. It will yield lucrative results for even short periods of time. While great credit is due the Japanese fisherman for his enterprise, it is to be hoped that the future will soon see strong competition on the part of the white men for the catching of salmon which is now so exclusively carried on by Japanese.

Prince Rupert is enjoying sound prosperity after a prolonged depression following its boom and the severe conditions under which it experienced the outbreak of war. Prince Rupert is now growing naturally and is slowly coming into its own as a terminal port. The fishing industry is its mainstay. A large number of Canadian and American boats, particularly the latter, engaged in the halibut industry are coming to Prince Rupert both to discharge their halibut cargoes and to refit for return to the fishing ground. We were informed that the fishing company cold storage facilities were sorely taxed on account of inadequate space and inadequate ice-making capacity, so much so that several vessels were compelled to leave Prince Rupert for Vancouver and Seattle.

REFLECTION ON A NORTHERN COAST TRIP

WORK OF LAND SURVEY DEPARTMENT OF PROVINCE

PRODUCTION OF ZINC AND OTHER MINERALS IN 1917

PROVINCIAL FORESTRY RETURNS FOR JUNE 1918

RECENT ANNUAL REPORTS

MINING THROUGHOUT BRITISH COLUMBIA.

TRUST COMPANY NOTES, COMPANY NOTES, INSURANCE MUNICIPAL, LUMBER, MINING AND OTHER INFORMATION