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heretofore, allow our friends to the south of the line to divert this trade into their own channels, to the detriment of ourselves.

If both our Provincial and Dominion Governments took hold of this matter, and presented it in the right light to the Australian Government, I feel sure that a favourable understanding would ensue, and that the benefits to be derived would be inestimable, and when once the trade between these two countries, built on a preferential tariff, is well under way, it would lead to closer relations in other lines, and would enrich the peoples of these sister Dominions.

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS BY A PROMINENT FISHERMAN.

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Finally, he is of the opinion that the differences in the size of the halibut heads is due either to the differences in racial construction, or to the modifying effect of climatical or other environmental features.

Mr. Thompson found that along with differences in the length of the head there was also a similar difference in the caudal length, that is, length of the body; the Alaska halibut matures at a much smaller size, beginning at about 29 or 30 inches in body length, but no British Columbia halibut has been found at maturity under a length of 35 inches.

Some prominent fishermen on this coast have said that the halibut is cannibalistic, but Mr. Thompson makes no reference to this, so it is fair to assume that the pioneer fisherman, like many other of his kindred, has been drawing the long bow. Mr. Thompson says that the halibut feed on crabs, anemones, star-fish, sand lance, dog fish, rat fish, the arrow-toothed halibut, octopi, grey cod, salmon and even red cod. He found that crabs and grey cod formed the vast bulk of food for halibut on many banks, while on at least one the halibut used many sand lance. Crabs and sand lance were eaten by halibut of small size, generally in shallower water, while the grey cod was eaten in great part on the banks further removed from the shore line. Hence the conclusion is forced that crabs and sand lance form the food of halibut inshore, while grey cod are on the bill of fare when the halibut is a long way off the shore.

When one realizes that the halibut is particularly the deep sea fish of British Columbia, and that the information given by Mr. Thompson is the most authoritative yet presented to the public, one is led to the conclusion that the British Columbia Government and the officials of the Department of Fisheries are to be congratulated on the results of Mr. Thompson's work.

It may be said in passing that Mr. Thompson has been assisted in his investigation by work that has been done in Europe with the plaice as the subject. As a matter of fact, the halibut is a flounder, or a plaice; in some parts of England it is called a "Holy Flounder," or a "Holy Plaice," because in times past it was particularly eaten on holidays. It may be of interest also to know that the halibut belongs to the genus Hippoglossus.

THE BANK OF VANCOUVER.

On closing the doors of the Bank of Vancouver on December 15th the directors issued the following statement:

"The directors of the Bank of Vancouver regret very keenly to be obliged to announce that the institution has been compelled to suspend payment. This decision was reached at a meeting of the board held yesterday afternoon, and was made necessary for the following reasons:

"1. Widespread and damaging rumors, resulting in the loss of public confidence and heavy withdrawals of deposits.

"2. Inability of the bank to quickly collect outstanding loans under present unprecedented conditions.

"3. Failure to obtain financial assistance in the crisis.

"Since the failure of the Dominion Trust Company, which shook public confidence, the Bank of Vancouver has failed to receive even a reasonable measure of support. Without doubt this is largely attributable to the damaging rumors which have been persistently circulated regarding the bank during the past month or two. To illustrate the nature of these rumors, it can be stated that many depositors of the bank and others interested in its welfare have been well advised—some of them anonymously—to discontinue their business with the institution. The direct effect of these rumors caused very heavy withdrawals of deposits, which an institution much stronger than the Bank of Vancouver could not have continued to meet because of the impossibility readily to collect loans under prevailing conditions, notwithstanding the fact that vigorous and persistent efforts were made to do so. In addition to seriously affecting the bank's policy of collecting, which was being pursued, the war indefinitely postponed negotiations towards securing additional capital for the bank, and it has since been impossible to resume these negotiations.

"When it became evident that funds would be required to meet depositors' demands, every possible effort was put forth to secure assistance, and it was only after exhausting all available sources that the directors reluctantly decided to suspend business.

"The directors are confident that the depositors will be paid in full, as the assets are ample; but in view of existing conditions some time will be required for full realization. The assets at the close of business yesterday amounted to approximately \$1,098,000, of which about \$70,000 is made up of cash, cheques, bank balances and deposit with the Government at Ottawa as security for note circulation. The liabilities are composed of deposits totalling \$379,000 and notes in circulation \$325,000.

"Attention is here directed to the fact that on the 30th of November, 1913, a little more than a year ago, the bank's total deposits amounted to \$1,507,000 and notes in circulation \$373,000. These figures are indisputable evidence of the large reduction which has taken place in the bank's liabilities during the past year."

The Government bank statement as of October 31st for the Bank of Vancouver showed: Notes in circulation, \$254,762; deposits payable on demand, \$220,920; deposits payable after notice, \$334,432; total liabilities, \$912,137; aggregate amount of loans to directors and firms in which they are partners, \$46,579; total assets, \$1,532,786.



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