

D. G. S. "QUADRA,"

VICTORIA, B.C., January, 1899.

Report of the "Quadra's" work during 1898 for the Commander of the Fisheries Protection Service.

Owing to the increased number of lighthouses and other aids to navigation to be attended to during the season of 1898, the time devoted to other important duties was necessarily small.

In the early part of the year two cruises were made along the coast of British Columbia and as far as Wrangel in Alaska, first with Mr. Louis Coste of the Public Works Department, and secondly with Colonel Anderson, Marine and Fisheries Department, Ottawa, respectively. The first cruise with Mr. Coste was made, mainly with the view of inspecting several of the Northern Inlets suitable as a terminus for an all-Canadian route to the Yukon, and with Colonel Anderson to select sites for several proposed new lighthouses, which lighthouses have, during the year 1898, been erected.

On the 27th of June the "Quadra" left Victoria for a cruise on the west coast of Vancouver Island in the interests of the sealers, who at this time of the year, when on the eve of sailing for the Behring Sea portion of the sealing cruise, have frequently a difficulty in making the Indian hunters rejoin their vessels. The presence of the fisheries cruiser at the different villages, scattered along the west coast of the island, and at which villages the sealing schooners obtain their hunters, is a great incentive to the Indians to carry out their engagements, and, with the exception of two places, at all the villages where the "Quadra" called, the Indians went quietly on board their vessel, much to the gratification of the interested sealing men. At Nootka and Clayoquot I found it necessary to hold a court at which several Indians were convicted of refusing to join their vessels; at the former place, after conviction, the men were allowed time for reflection on the subject of whether they would join their vessel or go to prison, and they wisely chose the former. At Clayoquot, owing to an informality in the articles, I declined to convict, and the men were ultimately engaged in the same vessel at an increased rate of pay.

This annual work of the "Quadra" on the west coast of Vancouver Island is greatly appreciated by the sealing community. During the cruise revenue work was also attended to, the wreckage from a vessel recently wrecked, the "Jane Grey," being taken charge of at each place where it had been picked up and sold by myself as acting receiver of wreck, at public auction on the spot, the proceeds of the sale being handed over to the receiver of wreck on the return of the "Quadra" to Victoria.

This taking charge of all wreck had a most salutary effect on the Indians who have an idea, and have hitherto acted on it, that all wreckage picked up on the coast is the property of the tribe whose village is in the vicinity of where the find was made.

On the 2nd of September a visit was made on Fishery Service to the village of Claoose, and the river ascended in a boat for some miles, where an obstruction to the salmon ascending the river to the lakes, was taken away and an open stream left for the fish. The reason why it was necessary to remove obstructions being explained to the Indians, they promised not to rebuild them.

The remainder of the season was devoted to lighthouse duties, the ship being laid up for overhauling and painting on 31st of December.

JOHN T. WALBRAN,
Commanding "Quadra."

QUEBEC, 31st December, 1898.

To Commander O. G. V. SPAIN, R.N.,
Fisheries Protection Service, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit to you the following report of the duties performed by the Dominion Revenue Cruiser "Constance" under my command during the year just ended, 1898 :—