

FISHING IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS

NEW COMMISSIONER SPEAKS OF HIS TRIP

A Big Salmon Run in the Skeena—Caneries Prepared for a Large Business This Year.

J. B. Babcock, commissioner of fisheries for the province, returned from his trip to the north on the 'Bees on Sunday. Interviewed by a 'Times reporter this morning Mr. Babcock was kind enough to give some particulars of his experiences on the northern rivers.

"The object of my journey," he said, "was to become familiar with the natural conditions obtaining on the Skeena, Nans and at Rivers Inlet. I went up the Skeena as far as Lakelse lake, where as the name infers there are a very large number of muskies. I had hoped to get over a larger portion of the watershed, but owing to the extremely high water in the Skeena, the river steamer was unable to pass the canyon so that I saw only a very limited portion of the spawning ground of the river. The sockeye salmon run up the Lakelse and other tributaries of the Skeena, and throughout is said to be one of the greatest spawning grounds on the coast.

"The valley of the Skeena is one of the most impressive and beautiful scenes I have ever visited, and if it was situated in any other country than this where mountain and river scenery is so prevalent—it would be an objective point for thousands of tourists. Navigation is rather difficult when the water is high as it fills up the various channels between the cliffs, and sweeps many feet into the water, causing numerous obstructions and altering the currents and channels. But although under those circumstances navigation is difficult it is decidedly interesting. The streamers have considerable horse power for their engines, and on occasions they call in the aid of the hoisting gear, and by fixing a cable to a tree or rock on the shores wind it up, and so get a pulling power as well as the propeller to work. When it is remembered that there is a fall of 500 feet in 200 miles of the river some idea may be obtained of the rapidity of the flow of the river. Above the canyon, navigation is said to be comparatively easy.

"Along the mountainous shores of the Skeena there is an abundance of magnificent timber, but owing to the changeable currents and the blockades I have described, I doubt if the river could be utilized for floating the timber to the coast.

"The Skeena is next to the Fraser—the most valuable salmon river in the province. The principal catch there consisted of sockeye, although there is a considerable run of spring salmon earlier in the season. There are eleven canneries on the Skeena, most of which are large establishments and up to date in every way. Besides the canning, there is considerable business done in freezing and cold storage, the plant at Claxton being the most elaborate of its kind in British Columbia, having a capacity for freezing 16 tons of fish per day. This branch of the fishing industry is just being developed here, and bids fair to be of considerable importance.

"The run of fish is very heavy on the Skeena so early in the season, and the canneries are being worked to the limit. There are 700 boats fishing on the river, mostly manned by Indians, with a fair proportion of Japanese fishermen and very few whites.

"From the Skeena I proceeded to the Naas river, where the fish are running in good numbers, but the cannery managers are experiencing some difficulty in obtaining fishermen to work for them, most of the Indians having gone over to the American side.

"The situation at Rivers Inlet was very interesting. There is a good run of salmon and there is considerable rivalry between the canneries to secure the Indian fishermen and cannery operators, which has led to an increase in the price of fish from seven to eight cents. The Skeena canneries are only paying five cents, but the run at Rivers Inlet is much heavier and the men can make more money there than at Rivers Inlet with the higher price. All the canneries have made preparations for a big run this year, although the run at Rivers Inlet would not be up to the average of recent years.

"When the steamer reached Esquimaux on the 28th ult., the people there were celebrating the coronation. Hundreds of Indians from all over the northern part of the province had gathered there with a number of Indian bands, two of which played excellently. They had been celebrating all day, and many of the Indians were dressed in furs and fine array. It was altogether a gorgeous display, but when the steamer arrived at 9.15 in the evening with news of the King's illness, the celebrations of course came to an end.

In conclusion Mr. Babcock said that he was greatly impressed with the fine, healthy appearance of the Indians in the north, who seemed to be very contented and well to do. Mr. Babcock had no plans to announce in connection with his department.

THE CORONATION.

Montreal, July 8.—The Star's London cable says: "No intimation has yet reached the Canadian ministers regarding the date of the coronation. It is expected, therefore, that the coronation will be held in September, in which case Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. W. S. Fielding and other Canadian ministers will be here. It is here also that a fresh contingent of Canadian troops may come over."

"Sir Frederick Borden is spending a few days in the country. "It is intended to decorate the Canadian arch for Lord Kitchener's return with a new flag design."

REDUCTION IN FARES.

Big Out in Round Trip Tickets to Alaska on All Lines.

An important movement is about to be initiated by the different transportation companies running steamers to the North, with a view to promoting the tourist business on this coast. All have agreed, it is understood, on a common working basis, and have decided on a general reduction in the price of round trip tickets to the North. The rate now charged on the Spokane for first-class passage is \$100, and on other steamers \$60. Now it is proposed to charge only \$40 on the latter ships, and by so reducing the price it is hoped to build up the tourist travel of the North. So far as the business of the Spokane is concerned, no change will be made, as her agents find that they have no difficulty in filling her at the rate now charged, but there is a local patronage sought which this figure prohibits, and which the companies desire to cultivate.

The Spokane visits points of interest which the other steamers on the route are unable to frequent. Mr. Taylor, who has been the most notable instance, but Taku glacier, an almost equally marvellous field of ice, can be seen on the other trips, and there is a local patronage sought which this figure prohibits, and which the companies desire to cultivate.

COMING EXHIBITION TO BE HELD HERE

The Office of Association Opened in the Market Building To-day—General Arrangements Being Made.

Secretary Beaumont Boggs, of the Agricultural Association, will to-day open an office in the market building, where, from now on, an assistant will be constantly in charge. This will mark one of the initial steps in the movement towards the big exhibition to be held in this city from the 7th to the 11th of October. The association is now in correspondence with many of the large stock associations of the coast regarding the fair, and have received assurances from several that are very satisfactory. All judges will be Dominion government experts, a fact which should give the Mainland stockmen food for reflection. Last year complaints were made of the partiality of judges who acted, not only at one, but several exhibitions, with the result that the animals were inspected always from the same point of view and stockmen were unable to appeal from any one decision. Of course this was not the case in Victoria, where, because of the cordial treatment extended to the Dominion government experts, the Ottawa authorities have been pleased to take the matter again in charge.

Another thing which will assist the Victoria exhibition materially will be the transportation facilities which will be at their disposal this year. This will permit of the stock being landed at Oak Bay, and being taken to the exhibition grounds. An effort will be made to secure the steamer Strathcona for the purpose of carrying animals coming from the Fraser and the neighboring islands. Owing to the light draught of the boat it will be possible for her to make a landing at the most convenient part of the wharf so that they can be taken direct to the grounds without delay, and there placed in pens prepared for them. The stock will not be exposed, and should be looking their best when exhibited. There will be a big showing of sheep this year—much larger, it is believed, than last year. In the opinion of J. Richardson, one of the Mainland fanciers, who was in the city a few days ago, and who informed the local secretary of the association that the owners of many large flocks have already made up their minds about showing here.

Relative to the racing part of the programme, Mr. Boggs stated that every attention will be devoted to it. The most will come under the circuit of the Pacific Coast, and the first and second prize money will, he considers, be sufficient to bring the "Doghouse," the "Dodge" Rural Spirit, of Portland, in referring to the coming season's outlook, says: "It was thought by some that there would not be horses enough to go round, but the arrangement of circuit of dates will allow all the horses a chance to race throughout the entire circuit. The early closing stakes proves beyond a doubt that races will be well filled with a class of horses that will make racing here a very interesting event years gone by, and some 'whirlwinds' will be uncovered that will set the whole country talking of the great achievements of this one and that one that are hardly as yet known to fame."

PERMANENT GARRISON. Fifty Thousand Men Will Remain in South Africa Under Lieut. General Lyttelton. London, July 8.—The Daily Mail this morning says the permanent garrison in South Africa is to be 50,000 men under the command of Lt.-Gen. Lyttelton. Besides this force the system of having a large number of reservists scattered throughout the country, either on farms or in official positions, will be extensively followed. The reservists could be called on for service in case of an emergency.

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And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 30th day of June, 1902. GEO. A. SMITH, Official Administrator.

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Tyee Copper Co. SMELTING WORKS AT LADYSMITH. Prepared to purchase ores as from August 1st, Convenient to E. & N. or Sea. CLERMONT LIVINGSTON, MANAGER.

Witch Hazel For Sprains, Bruises, Bites and Stings of Insects, Swelling, Rheumatism, etc. 25c per bottle. Cyrus H. Bowes, CHEMIST, 98 Government Street, Near Yates Street.

THERE'S MONEY IN IT! SHIP YOUR HIDES, DEERSKINS and SEMEAS. MCMILLAN FUR & WOOL CO. MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. High Prices. Prompt Returns. WRITE FOR PRICE CIRCULARS.

MINERAL ACT. (Form F.) CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS. NOTICE. Rambler, Thorn, Rose, Jan, Puffing Billy and Pig Iron mineral claims, situated in the Victoria Mining Division of Renfrew District. Where located: Gordon River, Port San Juan. Take notice that I, H. E. Newton, F. M. C. No. 37248, and an agent for C. J. Newton, F. M. C. No. 37248, R. A. Newton, F. M. C. No. 37248, E. T. Godman, F. M. C. No. 37248, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.

MINERAL ACT. (Form F.) CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS. NOTICE. Panton Mineral Claim, situated in the Victoria Mining Division, where located: On Section 14, South Saanich. Take notice that I, Thomas Graham, Free Miner's Certificate No. B00780, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 13th day of May, A. D., 1902. SUMMER BOARD WANTED. Country residents who have accommodations for summer boarders are requested to send particulars to the Tourist Association, No. 94 Fort Street, Victoria.

TWICE-A-ANY AD. VOL. 33.

THE EXPLOSION IN A CO. OVER ONE HUNDRED LIVES PROBABLY. The Efforts of the Rescue Reached Entombed Unavailing.

Johnstown, Pa., July 8.—The explosion which has caused the death of over one hundred lives in the Cambria Iron Co. mine, near Westmont, Pa., closed this afternoon. How many are still alive is not yet known. It is not yet determined how long it is certain that the rescue party will be kept in the mine until they are rescued. The rescue party was sent down at 10 o'clock, and after the explosion before knowledge of what happened to the rescue party. It was nearly 4 o'clock when they were rescued. They were found with their lives told. It spread all over the country to the point and that did not come from mine.

The openings across the Cambria Iron Co., permitting no one to enter from which noxious gases escaped, was nearly 4 o'clock, and the rescue party of about 20 men, including a doctor, were sent down. They were found with their lives told. It spread all over the country to the point and that did not come from mine.

Johnstown, Pa., July 11.—The first of the bodies of the men who were killed in the explosion at the Cambria Iron Co. mine, near Westmont, Pa., was brought to the surface this morning. The body was that of a man named Marshall G. Moore, 35 years of age, who was followed by Mine Superintendent J. Robinson, but the latter was not rescued. The bodies were brought to the surface by a rescue party of about 20 men, including a doctor, who were sent down. They were found with their lives told. It spread all over the country to the point and that did not come from mine.

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