

The Waterdown Review

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Waterdown

THE FISHERIES IN B.C.

SHOULD CANADA KEEP ALL HER OWN SALMON?

Cannerymen on Pacific Coast Are Feeling Alarmed Regarding Situation Because Catch Is Lessening and Last Year a Million Fresh Fish Went Across the Line to the United States.

COMMERCIAL fishing on the Pacific Coast is carried on in several ways. Trawling is yet in its infancy as far as British Columbian waters are concerned, last season having witnessed the operation of the first steam trawler which has ever been placed in commission here, but the success of this venture was so immediate that it is certain that this method of fishing will be resorted to far more widely in the near future, since splendid catches of sole, flounder, cod, and other deep sea fishes were made whenever this vessel put out to sea.

Fishing for halibut which is carried on almost exclusively in the more northerly waters of the province, and which has developed to such an extent that to-day it is second only in point of value to the salmon fishery, is done by the use of very long and immensely strong lines, to which are attached at regular intervals, hundreds of hooks baited with small herring. The vessels engaged in the halibut fishery are of necessity of large size, since they are compelled to go considerable distances in search of the fish, and frequently remain at sea for weeks at a time. The crew of a halibut vessel numbers as a rule from ten to fifteen men, and it is nothing exceptional for each of them to receive several hundred dollars as his share of the profits from a single voyage, for profit sharing is the rule among halibut fishermen. Unfortunately, although enormous quantities of this fine fish are landed every year, for some seasons past there has been a gradual but steady falling off in the number of fish taken. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that there has been little effort made to locate new halibut banks, while the fishing which has been going on over the known fishing grounds, has been of so intensive a nature, that it must have had considerable effect upon the supply. In 1916 the total catch was 37 per cent. less than it had been in 1915, while in 1917 the decrease only amounted to 8 per cent. However, the most notable falling off is to be noted for the season of 1918, when in spite of every effort on the part of the fishermen to maintain production at as high a level as possible, only 1,902,000 pounds were landed at Vancouver as against 5,162,000 pounds in 1917, while at Steveston only 16,000 pounds in all were landed. Prince Rupert also shows a very large decrease in the amount of halibut landed in 1918, the falling off amounting to no less than 3,801,560 pounds. This decrease is amply sufficient to justify the alarm which has been felt lest the halibut fishery is becoming a thing of the past.

The question of the export of fresh fish to the United States has always been a burning one, and has led to more heated arguments than even perhaps the controversy regarding the respective merits of the various forms of net. If fish are exported to the United States for immediate sale as fresh food, there can be no possible objection to the practice, and indeed there is much that can be said in favor of such exportation. The spring salmon is without any doubt a fish that should be eaten fresh rather than canned, and in this condition is a delicacy which even the most bloated plutocrat may well be proud to see upon his table. The great drawback hitherto to the shipping of these fish in proper condition to points in the east, has been the lack of refrigerator cars, and now that there seems to be every prospect of this difficulty being removed, a very large trade should unquestionably be worked up. But the export of salmon for this class of trade is not the difficulty. More than a million fresh fish were shipped to the United States last year for canning purposes only, the Puget Sound canneries getting the benefit of this trade, while our own Canadian canneries were unable to obtain all the fish that they could have handled.

It has been estimated that in the year 1916 alone no less than 16,000,000 pounds of British Columbia salmon was sold to American canneries, and this, it is claimed, would have meant a net gain to Canada of more than half a million dollars if these fish had been canned in this country instead of being exported for packing across the line. The secretary of the Cannery Association is

authority for the statement that the cannery machinery installed in the Fraser river canneries, working for eight hours a day, could have put up all the salmon which was packed on the river during the season of 1916, in two and a half days, but as fourteen canneries did not operate at all during that season, the remainder of those actually operating could have put up the total pack in three and a half days of eight hours each. Had the export of this 16,000,000 pounds of fish to the United States canneries been prohibited, it is obvious that our own canneries must have very largely benefited through being enabled to operate at full capacity through a longer period.

Maple Products.

Reports from various maple districts in Eastern Canada show that the maple products this year will beat all records. The makers of maple sugar and syrup in Canada exceed 45,000. About 550,000 acres of land are being reserved in their natural wooded state, of which two-thirds are situate in the Province of Quebec. The Eastern Townships of Quebec are the centre of the world's supply of maple products. Maple syrup is rapidly becoming known in Great Britain as a table delicacy, while maple sugar is finding favor as a sweetmeat.

Edith Beatrice Binkley

Mrs. Edith Beatrice Binkley, wife of Ellsworth Smith and only daughter of Philip and Mrs. Binkley of Greensville, died at Hamilton on Sunday evening after a brief illness. Deceased was born in Greensville 32 years ago, and had resided in Hamilton for the past year.

Besides her husband she leaves to mourn her loss, one son, Ivan, and one daughter, Phyllis, her parents and one brother, Roy of Greensville.

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon from her late home, 78 South Gage Ave., Hamilton, to Hamilton cemetery.

Deceased was well and favorably known in Waterdown, having lived here a number of years, and has a host of friends who will deeply regret her death, and extend to sorrowing relatives heartfelt sympathy.

Colin Cameron

Rockwood lost a highly esteemed resident in the death of Mr Colin Cameron, who passed away after a short illness on Sunday evening.

The funeral on Thursday was the largest in the history of the village of Rockwood. Friends were present from all parts of the Province, seventy-five motor cars being counted in the procession.

The late Mr. Cameron was a graduate of the Waterdown High in the days of Hunter and Bruce, afterwards attending Toronto University.

Mr. Cameron took an active part in municipal life, and was for years clerk of Nassagaweya Township. He was also secretary of the Halton Union Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co., but he was particularly well known as a Notary Public, transacting most of the legal business of the village and vicinity. Mrs. Cameron survives him, but no family. A sister, Mrs. F. W. Beaforth, resides at Waterdown.

Mrs. Hannah Glascott

The funeral of the late Mrs. Hannah Glascott took place on Saturday afternoon last from her late residence 38 Hess street, Hamilton, to Grace Church, Waterdown for service and interment. The Rev. Canon Howett officiated at the home, and Rev. H. J. Leake at the church and graveside. During the service the choir sang "Nearer My God to Thee" and "Abide with Me". The pallbearers were O. S. Glascott, W. J. Glascott, Fred Haynes and Alex Argue. There were many beautiful floral offerings.

Dr. S. J. Rasberry Conservative Nominee

The North Wentworth Conservatives met in Dundas on Saturday in convention at the Town Hall and selected Dr. S. J. Rasberry, V. S. of West Flamboro as their candidate. Wm. Sager, of Troy, was in the chair, and an address on the issues of the day was given by the Hon. W. D. McPherson who came as substitute for Hon. Dr. Cody. The first business was the selection of officers which resulted as follows: President Wm. Sager, Troy; 1st Vice-President Johnson Tew, Greensville; 2nd Vice Pres. Jas. Kelly, Sheffield; Sec-Treas. Wm. McDonald, Rockton. The chairmen and secretaries of the municipalities elected were, Dundas, chairman, H. G. Smith; secretary to be selected, Beverly, chairman, John Hammond, Sheffield; secretary, Fred Dwyer, Rockton. West Flamboro, chairman, Jas. Stutt, Greensville, secretary, Harvey Betzner, W. Flamboro. East Flamboro, chairman, W. Cairns, Carlisle; secretary, G. Stock, Waterdown. Waterdown, chairman, J. J. Burns; secretary, J. A. Davidson. The election of a candidate was then proceeded with. Those nominated were Dr. A. F. Rykert of Dundas; Dr. Rasberry, West Flamboro; Peter Ray, East Flamboro; F. J. Shaidle, Waterdown and W. J. Stutt, West Flamboro. Dr. Rykert thanking his friends for their loyal support in the past and appealing for a united party to fight for his successor, withdrew his name and retired, as also did W. J. Stutt. The first ballot resulted as follows, F. J. Shaidle 49, Dr. Rasberry 47, Peter Ray 31. Mr. Ray dropped out, and the final ballot was Rasberry 65, Shaidle 59.

Waterdown Fair

Upwards of 1500 people attended the Annual Fair held by the Waterdown Agricultural Society here on Tuesday last. The exhibits this year, especially in fruit and vegetables, were extensive and the quality good.

In the live stock department the number of entries surpassed all previous years, some fine animals being shown. A large tent erected on the grounds contained the fruit, vegetables, fancy work, pastry and writing exhibits, and it certainly was a very creditable exhibit.

In the cattle exhibit were a number of fine animals. Geo. Pearson of this village being one of the chief exhibitors, he having won all the prizes for Ayrshires. The exhibit of horses was very small, although some good specimens were shown.

The Baby show proved an interesting feature of the exhibition. Seven infants were on the platform, and the judges had the time of their lives awarding the prizes. Sheriff Middleton was unable to act as judge, and his place was taken by Mrs. A. E. Carter of Hamilton, Mrs. S. Dynes, Burlington and Mrs. H. Dymont of Dundas. The following are the winners. Mrs. Minnis, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. W. G. Horning, all of Waterdown. A 4th and 5th prize given by Sheriff Middleton, was awarded to Mrs. Geo. Guenther of Waterdown and Mrs. Geo. Wetheral, Flamboro Center.

Throughout the afternoon Green's Concert Band of Bartonville gave a musical program which was greatly enjoyed.

In the evening the King's Daughters held their annual concert in the Drill Hall which was filled to the doors. J. F. Vance acted as chairman, and a first class program was given by Ruthven MacDonald, Miss LaDell and others. The proceeds of the concert is in aid of the Memorial Hall.