Fishing Industry Is of Basic Importance To Port of Prince Rupert

The Royal Fish Co. Limited

Manager John Dybhavn

Packers and Shippers of Pacific Coast Fresh and Frozen Fish

Correspondence Solicited

Government Wharf

P. O. Box 1700

Prince Rupert, B.C.

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Prince Rupert

salmon are sold in Prince Rupert at caught and the banks on which ta- manufacturing is one of the sidefish exchange. This is conducted ken, all being recorded on a black- lines of the plant which can make somewhat along stock exchange board.

lines. All the fish are listed early in Each bidder makes a complete re- The cold storage plant, which was the morning, the name of the boat, cord of every bid made on the ex- established here 20 years ago, has the skipper, the number of pounds change and the one who bids high- been for years the mainstay of the approximately of first and second est gets the fish. There is no auc- city and is the institution that for

All the halibut and some of the class fish and the number of days tioneer.

Halibut and Salmon Principal Varieties Used at Present; Many Other Kinds Around and Available

Prince Rupert is the largest halibut market in the world and the centre of the most important salmon fishing district on the continent. Halibut and salmon are the most important fish hereabouts although there are to be found in contiguous waters a great variety of small flatfish including soles, brill, etc. Prince Rupert black cod is a delicacy which many epicures have come to know. Other varileties of cod are neglected simply because there are so many other more choice kinds of fish and the demand is small.

Herring also abound and are anvaluable fish of fine quality. Shellhrimps, are other important prolucts of the sea here. Large inlustries have aiready been built up here through the handling of halibut and salmon. Handling and prearing flatfish, cod, shellfish, etc. hay all some day make large in-

Being the principal market place and shipping point, Prince Rupert is the headquarters for the Pacific Coast halibut fishing industry. Off the Queen Charlotte Islands, Cape Omaney, Yakutat and Portland. seven hundred or more miles north. the most productive halibut banks as large fishing craft as are requirare located. Sturdy vessels-some small and some not so small, none of them as long as 100 feet-take ice and bait from here out to sea with them and, as they make their catches, the fish are iced and stored in the holds which are always kept cool. When the boat is full or Juction business is also a valuable when it is considered that it has one. The Rupert Marine Products been out long enough, it returns to for many years has been a successport and the fish is marketed on ful operator here. the Prince Rupert Exchange at The fact that an average of 100,which a daily auction sale is held. 000 pounds or upwards of halibut Of course, the quicker the market is landed here per day makes much is reached and the fresher the fish work in packing the fish for eastis when offered to the buyers, the ern shipment. greater value of the product.

operated on shares. When the fish- on the mainland hereabouts and ing is good and the prices favor- four or five on the Naas River all able, the members of the crews pay their tribute in business to make very substantial incomes. Prince Rugert, Realization by the When fishing is poor and prices people of Prince Runert that betlow, there may not be a living in ter communication with the canthe game. It is not making the in- neries was necessary if Prince Rudustry any more profitable that the pert was to get its full share of the closer in banks are becoming de- business resulted in a steamer bepleted and the fisherman, year by ing placed exclusively in this seryear, has to go farther and farther vice out of Prince Rupert this year. afield to get his catch. Then, often, That steamer has brought a great he may meet an unfavorable price deal more business to Prince Rupert situation on returning to port and from the canneries and the trade is there is more discouragement, growing in such volume that the There are still, however, small for- service should soon be justified as tunes to be made in the halibut far as the operating company is fishing business on occasion.

Last year 28,000,000 pounds of halibut was landed at Prince Rupert, about 20,000,000 pounds of If it were not for the fish busiproducers for the railway here.

Salmon Important

The salmon fishing and canning industry hereabouts is as important as that of halibut and, perhaps, in dollars and cents, means more Prince Rupert since all engaged in it are Canadian subjects and resi-

The fishing industry has brought many important activities to Prince Rupert. The port has the third largest cold storage plant in Canada and the largest cold storage plant in the world used exclusively the handling of fish. During the summer the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co. employs several hundred men in its plant and on its boats. Throughout the year there a large payroll at the plant. Some years ago the company gave up operating halibut trawlers on the company lay." The cold storage plant has approximately 750,000 cubic feet of insulated space. It has facilities for unloading four fishing schooners simultaneously and can comfortably handle 30,000 pounds of fish per hour. The sharp freezers can freeze well on to 200,000 pounds of fish per day. The approximate turnover of the company per year s 20,000,000 pounds of fish. Ice

80 tons of ice per day. a long time has been chiefly re-

consible for making Prince Rupert fish, such as crabs, clams and prosperous by insuring a steady market for the fish. While other industries may come in from time time, there will probably be none ndividually more valuable than hat of the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co. All that the port could rish for, indeed, is a few more as teady and consistent as this plant nas been.

Boatbuilding has long been an mportant industry in Prince Ruert. A number of local builders ave been doing this work for sevral years and turn out as fine and ed. There is also a good deal of vork in repairing, overhauling and outfitting the fishing craft. The catbuilding industry is corrollary o fishing and is rapidly growing in importance. Salting and smoking plants are also profitable. The re-

Twelve or so salmon canneries on The halibut Ashing boats are all the Skeuna River, andout as many

Basic Importance

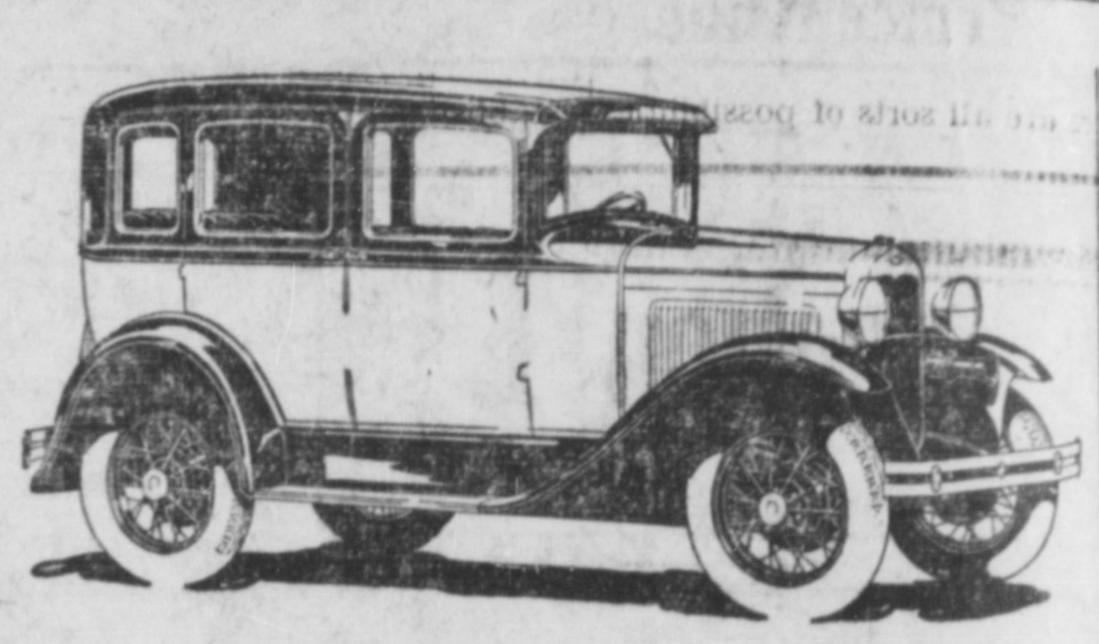
which was from American boats ness there would have been very with the balance from Canadian. little reason for Prince Rupert be-To ship 28,000,000 pounds of halibut ing made the terminus of the approximately 1500 cars are needed Grand Trunk Pacific which now is and, as practically all halibut that the Canadian National Railway. is landed here will ultimately leave But Prince Rupert has a geograhere by rail in refrigerator cars, it phical advantage here which makes can be seen that carrying halibut is it the logical port and railway point one of the most profitable revenue for all the fish from Northern Pacific points to be landed. Fish landed | | 6 in Prince Rupert is able to reach Chicago, Toronto, New York and other eastern markets from three to four days more quickly than if takto en on to Vancouver or Seattle. That is why halibut landings are heavier here than at all other points on the

coast combined. The immense importance of this business to the port is shown when the cargo values are considered. The retail value of fish shipped out of Prince Rupert each year averages possibly \$4,000,000 and the approximate express charges on these

hipments aggregate \$450,000. The advent of increased hydroelectric power here may well prove an inducement to other fishing industries to establish here. There are certainly great fish resources of many kinds. The industry in the past twenty years has been one of great importance. It may well become of much greater importance.

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Prince Rupert, B.C.