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Drunkometer Case Before B.C. Court

VANCOUVER (CP)—Legality of evidence obtained by a drunkometer against a motorist charged with drunk driving is undergoing its first court test here.

Traffic department officers introduced evidence from a drunkometer test in the police court Tuesday of Vancouver realtor Alex M. Donald who pleaded not guilty to a charge of drunk driving.

Mr. Donald is the first motorist to contest a drunk driving charge since police began using the drunkometer some two months ago. The drunkometer consists of a balloon into which the motorist is asked to breathe. Air in the balloon is analyzed to determine the amount of alcohol in the motorist's system.

The case was adjourned Tuesday after three prosecution witnesses had testified. It will resume today.

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DOCKSIDE TALES

Oyster Industry May Provide Solution To Seasonal Unemployment in Islands

By LARRY STANWOOD

An experiment which has been developing for the past six years on the beaches of Masset, on the north end of the Queen Charlotte Islands, holds the hope that its success will fill a gap of seasonal unemployment in the islands' fishing industry.

It is too early yet to arrive at definite conclusions, says Sam Simpson, operator of Queen Charlotte Cannery, but he hopes that in another year he will be able to harvest the first commercial yield of oysters ever taken north of the Gulf of Georgia.

In Prince Rupert to deliver several million oyster seeds to Al Faulkner, another pioneer of the potential industry, Simpson said:

"If our experiments prove successful, we will be able to enter the competitive oyster market. We can grow them in the north and they appear to be of even better quality than those grown in southern waters. The experiment should provide whether the oysters we planted will survive in large enough numbers to make the project economically feasible.

"It takes, between four and five years for the oysters to mature here compared to three years in the south."

SOLUTION TO SLACK TIME
Simpson said he got the idea of the oyster beds when trying to find some facet of the shellfish industry which could provide employment for Masset residents during the normally slack months of January to March, which is the season of the oyster harvest.

His delivery of the oyster seeds in Prince Rupert from Pendrell Sound, north of Powell River, also marks a unique step in B.C.'s oyster growing industry.

These seeds, or spat, are the first successfully developed in B.C. waters. Heretofore, all seed has been imported from Japan. Reason for this is that the water temperature on the Pacific coast north of the 48th parallel is not warm enough generally for oysters to release their spat. But, strangely enough, Pendrell Sound has consistently provided at least 10 days of 70-degree water temperature each year, the warmth required. And last summer, the seed or spat was developed for commercial seeding. It's done in this way, explained Simpson, who spent a month with oyster growers and government research men while in the south.

SIMILAR TO FUNGI

To collect the spat which has been freed in the water by the spawning oyster, strings of old oyster shells suspended by floats are set in the water to drift. Shortly after the spat attaches itself to the dead shells, it begins to sprout, similar to growth of fungi. There may be several hundred individual seeds on one dead shell. In planting, the seed shells are distributed along the beaches of the oyster beds at about the half tide mark where water will cover them most of the time, yet leave them dry for periodical examination and harvesting. After the old shell disintegrates, the young oysters attach themselves to the nearest solid object on the ocean bottom.

In Prince Rupert, Al Faulkner, a customs officer, is experimenting with an oyster bed he has established on half a mile of beach in Tuck Inlet. He and Simpson divided the shipment of some four million seeds between them.

Simpson brought the oyster seed to Prince Rupert with his 60-foot boat, the Dungeness of which his only son, Gene, is the skipper. The broad-beamed vessel is the only boat on the B.C. coast built expressly for crab fishing and last year was high boat among 100 (American and Canadian) fishing the Hecates.

Another large boat fishing for Simpson is the White Oak, owned and skippered by veteran fisherman Jack Dean of Prince Rupert. Besides three large vessels, a fleet of "mosquito" boats provide Queen Charlotte Cannery will all their crabs.

Sam Simpson is an outspoken man of stocky build, in his late forties. He is especially outspoken about American fishing in the Hecate Straits, and about the "one-way" boundary in the north, the only one of its kind in the world.

"The big invasion into the Hecate Straits by American crab fishermen is drastically reducing the crab population," claims Simpson. "And furthermore, I can't see for the life of me why the Yanks should be allowed to fish there."

He claims that Canada declared the Straits as "territorial (home) waters" shortly after B.C. entered Confederation but "we just haven't had the guts to enforce it." The Straits are considered as off-shore waters from a three-mile limit east of

the Charlottes and west of the mainland, thus open to foreign vessels.

About the "one-way" boundary line, Simpson says this: "It is the only boundary in the world between countries where one side can cross over freely and the other is blocked American fishermen, for instance, can come from Alaskan waters through Dixon Entrance into Hecate Straits and never have a worry. But just let a Canadian set one inch of his keel over the boundary and the Coast Guard is right on his tail." The Queen Charlotte Island crab canner maintains, however, that he has no animosity for the Americans.

"I only believe we should stick up for our rights. I was an American once. I was born in Seattle." But he didn't have to tell us. We heard and recognized the way he pronounced the name "Washington," thus — Warshinton.

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Tongue-Twister Test For Drivers

VANCOUVER (CP)—The motorist who stutters won't have a chance if he is suspected of driving while impaired or drunk during Christmas holidays.

Traffic Sgt. Ted Temple has disclosed that a tongue-twister test for sobriety is a regular police procedure here.

The jawbreakers are: "Around the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran" and "Methodist Episcopal."

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