

The San Juan Islander

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NO. 27

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FRIDAY HARBOR
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SALMON RUN STILL SMALL

ALASKA CANNERIES REPORTED TO
BE DOING FAIRLY WELL

Receivers Kerr and McGovern of the P. P. & N. and P. A. F. Cos. Visit the Local Cannery - Purse Seiners Have Had Very Poor Season Thus Far.

Receivers Kerr and McGovern, of the P. P. & N. and P. A. F. Cos., accompanied by Superintendent Hutton and Trap Superintendent McMullan, of the latter company, were in port Saturday night on the steamer Cudahy, remaining all night. Mr. Kerr had just returned on the Cudahy from a month's inspection trip of the P. P. & N. canneries in Alaska. He reports a fairly good season in northern waters as compared with that thus far experienced on the Sound. The most northerly canneries are doing the best. There has been a large run of the inferior grades of fish, but the run of "reds," the best Alaska salmon, about like the sockeye of our waters, has been rather below the average, and the pack has been somewhat curtailed by the new federal law prohibiting the canning of fish before July 1 and permitting fishing only six days a week. Nearly all the salmon fishing in Alaska is done by means of purse seines and gill nets, the shores being too rough and precipitous and the waters too deep for many traps. The P. P. & N. Co. has only three traps in Alaska, two of them in Taku inlet and one in Dundas narrows. The native Indians are the best fishermen employed. They make much the largest catches, are the most temperate and give much less trouble than the Italian and other fishermen employed. The missionaries have acquired a very strong influence over the Indians, who have become quite devout and industrious. They have good schools and are making rapid progress in many ways. They will not work on Sunday. Mr. Kerr says that the Chatham cannery at Siteo bay, of which James Burke, of Friday Harbor, is superintendent, is doing well and has already put up a good pack of fine fish.

Receiver McGovern, as well as his associates, is naturally much gratified over the prompt action of the treasury department in granting the application of the Puget Sound cannerymen for the privilege of making drawback entries of fresh salmon imported from the Fraser river. The P. A. F. Co. has already made arrangements for buying fish on the Fraser, intending to enter them at Blaine and can them there. They will pay duty at the rate of 1 cent a pound and will get a refund, or "drawback," as it is called, of 99 per cent of the amount paid when the canned product is exported.

Fishing conditions, in local waters continue very unsatisfactory, especially for the purse seiners, who are quite discouraged over the outlook. There are nearly 1,000 purse seiners operating off the southern shores of San Juan and Lopez islands, their "outfits" - seines, boats, etc., representing an investment of upwards of \$150,000. The best purse seines are 1,200 feet or more in length and cost about \$1,000. Most of the purse crews consist of eight men. Each seine should catch many hundreds of fish each day in order to make fair wages for the crew and give the owners of the outfits a reasonable return upon their investment. But instead of making hauls running well up into the hundreds the seines more often yield only a score or two or perhaps none at all. There has been a large proportion of humpbacks in the catches of the past week and these are saleable at only 1 cent each. The Canadian buyers pay for them at that rate, but as they have no market for them they are thrown into the water as they are counted. Thousands of them are wasted in this way, although humpbacks are preferred to sockeyes for salting. Eighteen humpbacks can be bought for the price of one sockeye. The B. C. Packers' Association has contracts with some of the seiners whereby they pay the same price for silver salmon as for sockeyes, and yet

they do not pack or salt them. The P. P. & N. Co. has bought a great many silvers at 5 cents each for which the Canadian buyers paid 18 cents.

Monday of this week was the first day this year that the seiners had even fairly good luck and since then there have been many good hauls, some running as high as 1,500, and on Tuesday the price went up to 20 cents, an advance over the previous day's price equivalent to twenty-two cents per case. At this price every fish taken to the Fraser river costs the Canadian canners about 25 cents, or at the rate of \$2.75 to \$3 per case, which leaves little or no margin of profit for canning. Having violated the agreement made at the beginning of the season not to pay over 12 cents per fish the Fraser packers have been beaten at their own game and forced to withdraw from the banks. Word was sent down by their steamers Tuesday night that an agreement had been reached not to buy any more seine fish on the San Juan and Lopez banks. If this agreement is maintained, as it probably will be during the remainder of the season, the purse seiners will be obliged to accept whatever price American cannerymen please to pay.

New Pope Elected

Cardinal Sarto, Patriarch of Venice, has been chosen as the successor of the late Pope Leo as head of the Catholic Church. He has chosen the name of Pope Pius X. He is 68 years old.

County Attorney King Resigns

H. S. King has tendered his resignation to the county commissioners as county attorney and it has been reluctantly accepted, and a contract has been entered into with Wm. H. Wynn, late of Whatcom, to perform the legal services and discharge the duties devolving upon the prosecuting attorney's office during the remainder of the term for which Mr. King was elected. Mr. King has been a resident of the county for more than twelve years and has well earned as he well deserves the genuine respect and cordial good will of the people, who will sincerely regret his decision to remove from the county. Mr. Wynn comes here highly recommended and it is expected that he will soon establish himself firmly in the esteem and confidence of the public.

The launch Orcas towed a scow load of lumber over from Chase Bros. mill at West Sound Friday for Mrs. Taylor and Archie Fleming and Saturday she brought 50,000 shingles from the same mill for L. B. Carter and the Sweeney Mercantile Company.

State Fish Commissioner Kershaw visited the salmon banks and Eagle cove Monday and spent the night here. He required the buyers for Canadian cannerymen to take out licenses, and he will collect a state fisheries tax of 30 cents a thousand on all the fish they buy and export.

Benton Embree, of the firm of Embree & Cole, prominent attorneys of Seattle, was in town Tuesday with Judge Lichtenberg, of Lopez. He came down from Seattle with his family for a little pleasure trip and visit with friends and was so charmed with the islands that within twenty-four hours after his arrival he purchased the Frankland place on Fisherman's bay for a summer home, and took possession Monday. Mr. Embree was quick to do what many gentlemen of wealth and culture from the cities are sure to do as the great attractions and advantages of our beautiful islands become more generally known and appreciated. It is only a question of time when the San Juan archipelago will be dotted with beautiful summer homes, as are the far famed "Thousand Isles" of the St. Lawrence river, and the shores of Long Island sound.

FRIDAY HARBOR IS HIS CHOICE

PROF. KINCAID WOULD ERECT MARINE LABORATORY HERE

Some Rare and Interesting Specimens Obtained on His Recent Trip—Twenty Species of Crabs—Choice Tunicates Found in West Sound.

Reporting the return of Prof. Kincaid to Seattle after several weeks spent in looking for the most desirable location on the Sound for the establishment of a marine laboratory as an adjunct of the State University, the Seattle Times of last Sunday, whose editor, Col. Blethen, is president of the board of regents of the university, says:

"He first went to Port Townsend and the surrounding region, obtaining many valuable specimens of marine life, but failed to find a suitable location for the laboratory. His next expedition was up Hood's Canal, while during the past two weeks he has visited most all of the San Juan islands. As he had anticipated, he found the waters giving to him hundreds of the best varieties of life. Here were the richest grounds that the professor had yet explored and his expectations were more than fulfilled. Friday Harbor also offered the best opportunities for the location of the laboratory, as it is easily reached from any point of the islands. Prof. Kincaid's recommendation to the board of regents will undoubtedly be that this place be chosen as the situation for the university work.

"Of the hundreds of specimens brought home by the professor on this trip the most valued were likely a species of jellyfish for which many scientists have been searching during the past number of years. Some time ago two or three of the same species were discovered at Vancouver island and since that time all search for them has been in vain. The professor secured every one that could be found and will be able to supply a number of prominent zoological men throughout the country who have been looking for the species.

"About twenty of the most highly prized species of crabs were also among his collection. The many species of tunicates, the professor also considered among the choicest of his findings. Three of his specimens of the tunicates will rank among the best that can be found in any of the laboratories of the United States.

"A good collection of deep seaweeds were likewise brought back, although this line of exploration is somewhat out of Prof. Kincaid's line of work. This collection is the first that has ever been taken out of Puget Sound.

"Prof. Kincaid is one of Washington's best known professors and in the past few years has been rapidly adding to his reputation and that of the institution by his scientific explorations. Being a graduate of the local university the college takes special pride in the rank that Prof. Kincaid is taking among scientific men of the nation, although as yet he is young in his profession.

"Besides being exceptionally active in the collection of the different kinds of animal life, the professor is a most interesting lecturer, both in his classroom and before large audiences."

Accidentally Shot

A son of Supt. Blake, of the Monarch mill at Blaine, not quite eighteen years old, accidentally shot himself a few days ago at the camp at which he was staying on the west coast of Vancouver island. The A. P. A. steamer Royal, of which Capt. Chris Humphreys is master, was sent to Port San Juan to take the body to Blaine for burial.

Orrin F. Scribner, of Duluth, Minn., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Scribner, whom he had not seen for ten years. He is an expert millwright and has been employed for some time by a big mill company at Lamoine, Shasta county, California. He became ill with mountain fever there and came to the Sound to recuperate.