

On Board S.S. Maquinna -- October 14th, 1938

Enroute to Zeballos on the above ship, met an insurance man named Alex. MacDonald, who has been living at Zeballos since March of this year. In talking about the camp, he said the town was wide open and that the Chief was the boss of the town allowing certain bootlegging and slot machine interests to operate; that it was impossible for an outsider to come in without his approval. That several Chinese and others had come in, that Cameron pinched the Chinese and ran the others out of town as the bootleggers at present had made a holler about them cutting into their business. He told us that on one occasion, when Cameron was in the Miner's Rest Club operated by Roy McKinley, he was very drunk and dancing the Highland Fling. Some of the boys from the Privateer Mine were in this bootleggers and not buying fast enough to suit the Chief. The Chief made some remark about the boys buying a little faster - they got sore and threw him out the back door and rolled him in about two feet of mud - he did not bother them again. This man states that Cameron was drunk daily in the Clubs until his wife came over from Vancouver, that he was singing and dancing in the various bootlegging joints at all hours at night. He, also, told us that Cameron had made a deal with a miner named Bill Sloan, who had staked the Rex Group, to sell the present Brothel house keeper the ground that her house is built on for \$750.00-- he got a split of this money. I asked how many girls were in the brothel and he said usually but that they were coming and going all the time as no matter what they made they had to give it up and invariably left town broke. He said:- "I know, I handle the insurance for the landlady."

When the boat pulled in to Tasis Arm "Nootka Forest Products Mill", I spotted a Vancouver bootlegger on the dock. He waved to me and we went ashore and met him. This man is named John Link, he operated a notorious club on Hastings St., opposite Woodward's; from this place the Bancroft's and Celona got most of their girls for their houses of prostitution. His mother or wife also runs a dive at the 400 Block Hastings St. E. On asking Link what he was doing up here, he said he was bootlegging on the Island. This place is about 400 yards from the mill and dock of the Company. He said this is better than Vancouver, you get 35¢ per drink and what you can pick up. I asked him how he had found out about coming up here and he said Cameron, who is now at Zeballos, had told him to come up and start and that he had been here since last March, that "Tasis Arm" was under Chief Cameron, and also "Ceepeecee" and that he had a boat and handled both places. He has another Vancouver Italian with him but he did not say who he was. He was positive in his statement that he was safe as long as the Chief was in charge at Zeballos and also stated that he was making money, gambling being good.

Arrived at Zeballos this evening and put up at the Zeballos Hotel. On coming off the boat, Constable Cameron was at the gangway. He shook hands and said he would see me later, he did not see my partner or know who he was. We got acquainted first, visiting the Golden Gate Hotel Beer Parlor; there were a number of people here and at the rear of the place men and women were together - many of them drunk but not noisy - the place seemed to be as well conducted as could be expected in a new

camp such as Zeballos. It is often much worse in Vancouver. We spent most of the night getting a line on the joints and getting an approach to same through watching the drunks coming and going. We returned at

Respectfully,

W.S.Bell

F.Seward
