

GEORGE NORTH FONDS

an inventory prepared for the Special Collections and Archives Division of the University of
British Columbia

prepared by Stephen Yearl
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GEORGE NORTH FONDS

1910 – 1975; (predominant 1960s).

5m of textual records. — 19 photoprints.

Biographical sketch. George North (1920–1990) was editor of *The Fisherman*, the newspaper of the United Fisherman and Allied Workers Union (UFAWU), for twenty-two years from 1946 until 1968. A graduate of the University of British Columbia, North returned in 1968 in order to obtain a teaching qualification. North taught in Prince George in the early 1970s, becoming a British Columbia Teachers' Federation staff member in 1975. Between the years 1980 and 1990 North was head of the Federation's Bargaining Division. North was UFAWU 'Union Information Officer' in June '67, and author of *A Ripple, A Wave* (1974), a UFAWU history of the Labour Movement in the local fishing industry. North also worked on the *Native Voice*, organ of the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia.

Scope and content. Consists of George North's research material on the fishing industry in British Columbia, and on the organization of the fishermen's labour unions. The research material includes letters inward and outward concerning his commission by the UFAWU; his early manuscript, later typescripts, and edited typescripts for the book *A Ripple, A Wave*; original and photocopied records of Inverness Cannery; extensive notes taken on the above records and local newspapers. Other material relates to his teacher training at the University of British Columbia. There is also a collection of published material.

Source of acquisition and custodial history. The records have been acquired by the Special Collections and Archives Division of the University of British Columbia from various donors. The majority of the material was acquired from Mrs. Margaret North, wife of the late George North, in April of 1992. A second acquisition was made from Mr. Jim McFarlane, staff worker for the British Columbia Teacher's Federation, in 1994. The third and most recent accession to the fonds occurred in March 1997, from Mr. Jack Nichol, former president of the UFAWU. All of the material described below was considered to be in George North's custody

Title of fonds. Supplied title proper is based on provenance.

Associated material. Described at the sous-fond or series level, as appropriate.

Accruals. Further accruals to the fonds are possible.

Sous-fonds I: Fisheries Research

1965–1969

2m of textual records. — 19 photoprints

Scope and content. The sous-fonds unifies material photocopied by George North in the course of his research for *A Ripple, A Wave*. His research notes are scattered throughout the sous-fonds, and are often, though not exclusively, associated with the material from which he made notes. The sous-fonds consists of the following series, subseries and files:

Series 1: Material about the writing of *A Ripple, A Wave* [The 'Union History Project'].

Subseries i: Correspondence with the backers of the 'Union History Project,' the UFAWU.

Also includes a report on the progress of the work.

ii: Correspondence inward and outward relating to book research. Includes a manuscript from an old timer entitled "Life at sea." — 1965.

Series 2: Research material and notes

Subseries i: 3x5 index cards

- file a: References to pages of [*The Victoria*] *Colonist*, ordered chronologically.
- b: Other references. To newspapers, university theses etc.

ii: 5x8 index cards

- file a: Notes taken from *The Province*, January 24, 1902—February 17, 1908.
- b: Notes taken from [*The Victoria*] *Colonist*, April 24, 1901—November 22, 1907.
- file c: Notes taken from *The Times*, January 15, 1906—January 23, 1908.
- d: Notes taken from *The Independent*, January 19, 1901—March 7, 1903.
- e: Notes from various sources labeled “Shoreworkers.”

iii: Photocopies of British Columbia Sessional Papers. Some files include handwritten notes. 1872–1927, chronologically arranged as to the seine season that preceded their publication.

iv: Photocopies of, and notes from, the Voice of the Fisherman. 1934–1935

v: Fisheries Regulations. Notes and photocopied material

vi: General Media. Photocopies and notes of non-technical news media. 1936 & 1938

vii: Photocopies and notes relating to, and formally named, “Halibut.”

viii: Photocopies and notes relating to, and formally named, “Salmon.”

file a: Decline of the Sockeye. Includes publication.

ix: Photocopies of Inverness Cannery papers. Some of which may be present in the Inverness Cannery sous-fonds, below. Some files include handwritten notes. 1921–1954, chronologically arranged. Includes photocopy of the months of June and July from the 1932 Daybook (absent in the Inverness Cannery sous-fonds, below).

x: Press clippings on Boeing workers dispute ca. 1943–1944.

xi: Notebooks. 5 notebooks, and two collections of loose leaf notes. Written in English and French.

xii: Photocopies of Fishery Inspector (provincial and federal) reports on British Columbia fisheries. — 1947–1953

xiii: General Research material for the Union Project. Undated.

xiv: Research material entitled “Japanese Fishing”

xv: Material re. indian affairs. Contains typescript by Maise Hurley, editor and publisher of *The Native Voice*.

Series 3: Book Typescripts

file a: Chapters 1–6. The original typescript, basis of *A Ripple, a Wave*. Some written annotations

b: Chapters 7–9. Contemporary copy. Some written annotations.

c: Revised typescript. Lightly edited, and closer to the first few chapters of *A Ripple, A Wave*.

d: Copy of revised typescript. As file c but with heavy editorial markings and insertions. Lacks 1st page.

Sous-fonds II: University of British Columbia teacher training material

1968–1969

40cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Material made or received whilst working toward his teaching qualification. The sous-fonds consists of the following series:

- Series
- 1: Notebooks on the history of the Rivers Inlet Strike of 1936.
 - 2: English term papers submitted whilst at the University of British Columbia.
 - 3: University newspapers.
 - 4: University notebook and British Columbia Department of Education Grade XII exams, 1938.
 - 5: Notes on poetry made for an English class

Sous-fonds III: Research material produced by Keith Ralston

1958–1967; (predominant 1967)

30cm of textual records

Biographical sketch. H. K. Ralston was educated at the University of British Columbia. He later undertook research work for the UFAWU in 1967, reporting to George North the Union's Information Officer. Ralston was later a longtime professor of history at the University of British Columbia.

Scope and content. The sous-fonds consists of the following series created by Ralston whilst working for George North at the Provincial Library, Victoria, British Columbia.

- Series
- 1: 'Working Bibliography' for his proposed thesis 'The Fraser River Salmon Fishing Industry,' July, 1958
 - 2: Research notes. — 1967. Copies of the British Columbia Supreme Court cases where the UFAWU is defendant.
 - 3: Copies of the "John Stevens agreement" with accompanying letter from the UFAWU president, Homer Stevens.

Sous-fonds IV: United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union records

1960–1968; (predominant 1967–68)

75cm of textual records

Administrative history. The UFAWU was established in 1945 following the merger of the United Fishermen's Federal Union (UFFU) and the Fish, Cannery, Reduction Plant and Allied Workers Union. The UFFU was a continuation of the United Fishermen of British Columbia, which was established as the British Columbia Seiners' Association in 1931. The UFFU was joined by the by the Salmon Purse Seiners' Union (SPSU) in 1940, and by the Pacific Coast Fishermen's Union (PCFU) in 1944. The SPSU was formed in 1936 from Fishermen and Cannery Workers Industrial Union (established 1933), itself a continuation of Fishermen's Industrial Union (established 1931). The UFAWU was suspended by the Trades and Labour Congress in 1953 for communist activities. It was recognized by the Canadian Labour Congress in 1972.

Scope and content. The sous-fonds, collected by George North, consists of the following series.

Series 1: Union Information

- file a: Press Releases. 1968
- b: Bulletins and propaganda. 1967
- 2: 1967 strike material.
 - file a: Newspaper advertisements, typescripts and press cuttings.
 - b: 'Motions Passed and Policy Adopted.'
- 3: Submissions to British Columbia Department of Fishery agencies. Undated.
- 4: Agreements with fishing industry
- 5: Minutes of the General Executive Board. March 15, 1968
- 6: Letters outward. 1967-1968
- 7: Other Union minute books:
 - file a: United Fishermen of British Columbia. — March 3, 1936
 - b: British Columbia Seiners' Association. — January 8, 1932
 - c: British Columbia Fisherman's Protective Association. May 15, 37
 - d: Unidentified Minutes. 1922. Held at [Wadhams &] Brunewick Cannery
Bruno Kaario is Chair
- 8: Material relating to the 'National Day of Protest,' October 14, 1976. Series consists of stickers, slogans and press releases.

Associated material. UFAWU Fonds (records number 595) are held at the Special Collections and Archives Division of the University of British Columbia; UFAWU: Women's Auxillary (Sointula, B.C.) Fonds are held at the Sointula Museum, Sointula; UFAWU: Skidegate Local Fonds are held at the Queen Charlotte Islands Museum.

Sous-fond V: **British Columbia Salmon Cannery's Association records**

1917-1922
2cm of textual records.

Administrative history. For the period covered by the records (1917-1922). W. D. Burdis was secretary.

- Series 1: Minutes. — 1917
- 2: Secretary's letters inward/ outward. — 1917-1919.
 - 3: Secretary's personal papers. — 1919-1922.

Associated materials. Related Association papers (records number 352) are held at the Special Collections and Archives Division of the University of British Columbia

Sous-fond VI: **Inverness Cannery records**

1910-1950; (predominant 1930s)
75 cm of textual records.

Administrative history. Situated on the River Skeena, Inverness Cannery was built in 1876 by North Western Commercial Company. It was purchased from Turner, Berton Company by J. H. Todd and Sons of Victoria in 1902 who owned and managed the cannery until its closure in 1950. The cannery was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1920, and entirely destroyed by fire in 1973.

Scope and content. The Sous-fonds consists of all the material that remains from North's original acquisition from Inverness Cannery (listed in series 1).

- Series 1: List of the 'Inverness Papers'. The contents of three boxes of papers that George North acquired from Inverness Cannery. *Note:* Not all of the material here listed is in this sous-fonds.
- 2: Day books 1924–1929, 1933 and 1934. The volumes contain varying material: weather conditions, sales invoices, notes. — 8 bound volumes.
 - 3: Telegraphs inward/ outward. 1939–54; (predominant ca. 1943)
 - 4: Inverness Cannery letters inward from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. — 1925-29
 - 5: material (letters, notes, memoranda) Re. Purse-seining and gillnetting in the Skeena river; 'Notes on net charges,' and proposed changes to licensing. Fishermaen's accounts receivable at Inverness Cannery. — 1930–33
 - 6: Estimates re. 'mild curing'. 1927 and 1929
 - 7: Gas boat insurance papers. — 1927
 - 8: Can and label making. — 1933
 - 9: Fish pack licenses. (predominant 1927)
 - 10: Miscellaneous contracts, 1925–29. Series included sale of fish catch and the employment of Chinese.

Associated material. Inverness Cannery Fonds (records number 643) are held at the Special Collections and Archives Division of the University of British Columbia; J. H. Todd and Son Fonds (records number 644) are also held at the Special Collections and Archives Division of the University of British Columbia.

Miscellaneous series.

- 1: Eulogy to the late Roy Van Dussen. (one item). Possibly composed whilst North was editor of *The Fisherman*.
- 2: 'Notes from Jimmie Sinclair, Federal Min[istry] of Fisheries'. Possibly taken when North was editor of *The Fisherman*.
- 3: Letter to B.C. Teachers' Federation. (one item) Relates to 'application for British Columbia Teachers' Federation staff position'.— February 19, 1975.

Publications

1939–1970; (predominant 1960s)

75 cm of published textual records.

- United States Geographical Survey — *Guide to topological maps*, 1965(?)
- Turf and Sports Digest*. July, 1966
- Fishery Researches of the U.S. — letter of the secretary of the interior. 79th Congress (1st Session); Documnet 51, March 7, 1945
- Pacific Fisherman: 1939 Yearbook*.
- Pacific Fisherman: 1940 Yearbook*
- Pacific Fisherman: 61st Yearbook*. 1965
- Pacific Fisherman: Handbook*. May 15, 1944
- University of British Columbia: Institute of Fisheries — *Study of Demersal Fishes...*
- Canadian Author and Bookman*. 42(1) Autumn, 1966
- Allen, T. & Gordon, S. — *The Scalpel and the Sword: The Story of Dr. N. Bethune*. Liberty Book Club, 1959

United States Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service — *Fisheries of the United States*.
1963
Fisheries Research Board of Canada — *Fishes of the Pacific Coast Canada*. Bulletin 68 (2nd. edt),
1961
Dominion of Canada Department of Fisheries Annual Reports, 3rd (1932-1933) — 34th (1963).
Incomplete.
Other official U.S. and Canadian Government agencies
General publications related to native indians

FILE LIST

BOX/FILE

Sous-fonds I: Fisheries Research

Series 1

Box 1

- 1-1 Subseries i: Correspondence with the backers of the 'Union History Project,' the UFAWU. Also includes a report on the progress of the work.
- 1-1a Subseries ii: Correspondence inward and outward relating to book research. Includes a manuscript from an old timer entitled "Life at sea." 1965.

Series 2

- 1-(2-4) Subseries i: 3x5 index cards.
- 1-5 Subseries ii: 5x8 index cards.

Box 2

- 2-(1-5) Subseries ii: 5x8 index cards continued.

Box 3

- 3-(1-4) Subseries ii: 5x8 index cards continued.

Box 4

- 4-(1-4) Subseries ii: 5x8 index cards continued.

Box 5

- 5-(1-4) Subseries ii: 5x8 index cards continued.

Box 6

- 6-(1-4) Subseries ii: 5x8 index cards continued.

Box 7

- 7-(1-28) Subseries iii: Photocopies of British Columbia Sessional Papers.
- 7-29 Subseries iv: Photocopies of, and notes from, the Voice of the Fisherman. 1934-1935.
- 7-30 Subseries v: Fisheries Regulations.
- 7-(31-32) Subseries vi: General Media. 1934-1935.

Box 8

- 8-(1-19) Subseries vii: Halibut.
- 8-(20-22) Subseries viii: Salmon.
- 8-(23-24) Subseries ix: Photocopies of Inverness Cannery papers. Note that this is also related to Sous-fonds VI.
- 8-25 Subseries x: Boeing workers dispute ca 1943-1944.
- 8-(26-30) Subseries xi: Notebooks.

Box 9

- 9-(1-2) Subseries xi: Notebooks continued.
- 9-(3-3a) Subseries xii: Photocopies of Fishery Inspector provincial and federal) reports on British Columbia fisheries.
- 9-4 Subseries xiii: General Research material of the Union Project. n.d.
- 9-5 Subseries xiv: Japanese Fishing.
- 9-(6-6a) Subseries v: Indian Affairs.

Series 3

- 9-(7-15) *A Ripple, A wave.*

Box 10

- 10-(1-2) *A Ripple, A wave* continued.

Sous-fonds II: University of British Columbia teacher training material

Series 1

10-3 Notebooks on the history of the Rivers Inlet Strike of 1936.

Series 2

10-4 English term papers submitted whilst at the University of British Columbia.

Series 3

10-5 University newspapers.

Box 11

Series 4

11-1 University notebooks and British Columbia Department of Education Grade XII exams, 1938.

Series 5

11-2 Notes made on poetry for an english class.

Sous-fonds III: Research material produced by Keith Ralston

Series 1

11-3 Working Bibliography. July, 1958.

Series 2

11-(4-5) Research notes. 1967.

Series 3

11-5 'John Stevens agreement' with accompanying letter from Homer Stevens.

Sous-fonds IV: United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union records

Series 1

11-(7-8) Union Information. 1967-1968.

Series 2

11-(9-10) 1967 strike material.

Box 12

Series 3

12-(1-6) Submissions to British Columbia Department of Fisheries agencies. n.d.

Series 4

12-(7-8) Agreements with fishing industry.

Series 5

12-9 Minutes of the General executive Bard. March 15, 1968.

Series 6

12-10 Letters outward. 1967-1968.

Series 7

12-(11-12) Other Union Minute Books. 1922, 1932, 1967-1937.

Box 13

13-(1-2) Other Union Minute Books. 1922, 1932, 1967-1937 continued.

Series 8

13-3 National Day of Protest. 1976.

Sous-fonds V: British Columbia Salmon Cannery Association records

Series 1

13-3a Minutes. 1917.

Series 2

13-4 Secretary's letters inward/outward. 1917-1919.

Series 3

13-5 Secretary's personal papers. 1919-1922.

Sous-fonds VI: Inverness Cannery records

Series 1

see file: 8-(23-24) List of Inverness papers.

Series 2

13-(6-7) Day books. 1924-1929, 1933, 1934.

Box 14

14-(1-4) Day books. 1924-1929, 1933, 1934 continued.

Box 15

15-(1-2) Day books. 1924-1929, 1933, 1934 continued.

Series 3

15-(3-5) Telegraphs inward/outward. 1939-1954; (predominant ca. 1943).

Box 16

16-(1-3) Telegraphs inward/outward. 1939-1954; (predominant ca. 1943) continued.

Series 4

16-4 Inverness Cannery letters inward from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. 1925-1929.

Box 17

Series 5

17-1 Material re: purse-seining and gillnetting in the Skeena river; 'Notes on net charges,' and proposed changes to licensing. Fisherman's accounts receivable at Inverness Cannery. 1930-1933.

Series 6

17-2 Estimates re. 'mild curing.' 1927, 1929.

Series 7

17-3 Gas boat insurance papers. 1927.

Series 8

17-4 Can and label making. 1933.

Series 9

17-5 Fish pack licenses. (predominant 1927).

Series 10

17-(6-6a) Miscellaneous contracts. 1925-1929.

17-(7-23) Miscellaneous material not noted in the description, predominant incoming correspondence with Inverness. 1922-1923, 1925-1931, 1937-1942.

Miscellaneous series

17-24 Notes from Jimmie Sinclair.

17-25 Letter from the British Columbia Teachers' Federation. February 19, 1975.

Miscellaneous files not noted in the description

17-26 Miscellaneous press photocopies.

17-27 1901 Province-Colonist.

17-28 B.C. Packers Association.

17-29 Statistical Tables.

Box 18

18-1 Canadian Fish New England.

- 18-2 Treaties legislation.
- 18-3 Legal Decisions, prov-fed.
- 18-4 Wilde Harvey's Pilgrimage [sic] M. Bruce?
- 18-4a Labour in Politics.

Publications

- 18-(5-10) Publications listed in the description.

Box 19

- 19-(1-2) Publications listed in the description continued.
- 19-3 Other official U.S. and Canadian Government agencies.
- 19-4 General Publications related to Native Indians.

Box 20

- 20-(1-6) Miscellaneous publications.

Box 21

- 21-(1-6) Miscellaneous publications continued.

Box 22

- 22-(1-3) Miscellaneous publications continued.
- 22-(4-7) Newspaper clippings.

Box 23

- 23-(1-3) Newspaper clippings continued.