

Pacific Gale Slacking Off

Fishing Fleet Battered By Winds; Five Drowned

By The Associated Press

A gale that battered shipping off the Pacific Northwest coast and took the lives of five seamen over the week-end was weakening fast today.

Winds up to 35 miles an hour and mountainous seas had imperiled some 160 men aboard eight vessels in two days, had grounded a freighter, swamped and sank a fishing boat and damaged others.

Injuries were numerous among fishermen and sailors in the storm area.

The gale, born off the Aleutians in the North Pacific last Thursday, reached its full fury Saturday and early yesterday. Waves have now subsided and the weather bureau said the southwester would blow itself out some time today. Winds were down to 25-30 miles an hour velocity.

Six crewmen of the fishing boat Fearless were rescued by the coast guard cutter Balsam early yesterday eight miles off Tillamook Rock, Ore. They had survived a night-long battle with seas that swept away the pilot house, flooded the engine room and injured one of the crewmen. Their plight was expressed by Crewman Bill Ludwig, Portland, who said, "I've never been so close to death."

Their dramatic rescue followed an SOS and a series of laconic radio messages from Skipper Cliff McCroskey at the height of the Pacific's fury. When it seemed certain his 82-foot craft was sinking, he radioed "I don't mind losing the ship, but hate to lose a good crew." Later he added, "If I don't see you guys any more—happy sailings."

Safely towed ashore yesterday, McCroskey's attitude was typical of the fishing fleet veterans. "We'll unload our catch of fish, get patched up and be heading out again soon."

Too Much

Crewmen Charles E. Hoff, an ex-insurance salesman, packed his gear and stepped ashore with the remark "I've had enough—I didn't expect ever to see my family again."

Four fishing vessels, a small Puget Sound mail boat and the Tankers Tigewater and J. L. Hanna were battered by the storm. The freighter Colorado grounded in Coos Bay, Ore. It was refloated at high tide yesterday.

Three Canadians drowned when their fishing craft sank 350 miles north of Victoria, B. C., Saturday. A Portland man was swept overboard from the dewater off Cape Flattery. The fifth victim was Peter Anderson, Astoria, drowned when a dinghy capsized at the mouth of the Columbia. Anderson was one of two seamen rowing to take a pilot off the Dutch freighter Overijssel. His companion was saved.

Deep Snow

As the heavy winds began to blow themselves out at sea, heavy snows continued to pile deep in the mountains and in Eastern Washington. Minor traffic accidents were common.

A blizzard, which contributed to 18 inches of new snow at Paradise on Mount Rainier, stalled 220 cars on the road to Narada Falls in mid-afternoon.

North Bend also reported 18 inches of new snow; city light at Ross dam on the Skagit river reported 15.

Spokane recorded 7.2 inches of snow in the 24-hour period ending at 3 p. m. Sunday. An Eastern

tial vote for vice president on the democratic ticket.

Dr. W. C. Davis, president of the Oregon chapter of ADA, said a decision on the move would be made this month by members and trustees.

"The presence of William O. Douglas as running mate for President Truman would immeasurably increase administration chances of reelection and could offset the very dangerous threat of Henry Wallace's candidacy," Dr. Davis said.

Saltonstall To Visit Oregon

PORTLAND, Feb. 9 (AP)—Senator Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.) is due in Oregon tomorrow for a two-day speaking tour of the state

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