

## **THE BOUCAUT BAY TRADING CO. ..**

Darwin seems to be the happy hunting ground for the "Get Rich Quick Wallingfords." The Elcho-Island Naptha Petroleum Company Limited came in with a flourish, taking over from Elcho Island Naptha-Petroleum Company, No-Liability. Later the Boucaut Bay Trading Co., Limited, and the Junction Bay Mazut Company Limited saw the light of day, both coming out of the office of the Elcho-Island Naptha-Petroleum Company Limited. At any rate the registered address of the Boucaut Bay Trading Company is the same as that of the Elcho-Island Naptha Petroleum Company Limited, and the Junction Bay Mazut Company Limited. Boucaut Bay Trading Company Limited was first formed with a capital of £7,500 in £10 shares. The company was again registered in November last with a nominal capital of £18,000 in £10 shares and the object of the registration was to take over and prospect the coal and mineral oil license issued in respect of an area of 1000 square miles in the Northern Territory known now as Block 40. The company entered into an agreement with T. Marshall and John Little by which Little was to receive £6000 in 600 £10 shares of the company.

in 100,000 shares of the company. Peculiarly enough the directors of these companies seem to be very much the same. Mr. E. P. Zakharow figures as the manager, while our Mr. Serenikoff takes the part of the Secretary. The objects of the company are to run the coastal contract, develop oil, and mineral licenses, trade in buffalo hides, crocodile skins, turtles, fish, fish fertilizer, beche de mer, mother of pearl, tortoise shell, shark fins, shark skins, oysters, sponges and sandalwood. What a great field for a company to investigate, reminiscent of a description by Frederick O'Brien, the American beachcomber.

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The company has two boats at present either purchased or chartered—John Alce and Huddersfield. The Government pay this company £6000 per annum to run this coastal service which the Government said cost too much money to run. How can the company make money with a Government boat that could not be made to pay in the past and with the Huddersfield, which is known now as the Rachael Cohen the second. How did this company get this contract with such antiquies? What persuasion tickled the Minister's ear to harken to such a proposal. Did Mr. Smallborne, a mem-

posal. Did Mr. Smallhorne, a member of the Home and Territories Department and a shareholder in the company add his persuasive eloquence to the would-be contractors. Why did the Government throw in another £1000 above the previous contract held by the Kac-hale Cohen. It is common knowledge no motor auxiliary service will ever be any good in the Territory to cope with the currents that set in around this coast. Only lately the Huddersfield has been battling to get to Cape Don and it is commonly reported she took five days to reach that point on the Douglas Mawson expedition. The public want to know what peculiar charm this company has for the Minister and his Department. Mr. King, school teacher in Darwin, signs the cheques of the company as Manager here. Is there a Public Service Ordinance which limits the sphere of influence of active young gentlemen? How long did the crew of the Huddersfield recently have to wait to get their wages. Why have not these companies been registered in the Northern Territory as required by the Companies Act or is the Crown Law Officer on his annual holiday. Does not the Act provide certain penalties for companies who trade here and fail to register? What has become of the liquor which was taken off the Hudders-

which was taken on the ruggersfield prior to her recent departure. In whose back yard is it now quietly reposing and how did it come to get out of the Government Railway store? Does not the Liquor Ordinance provide among other things for a penalty of £500 or twelve months or both for persons importing or introducing into the Territory liquor except by the consent of the Supervisor or an officer thereto authorised in writing by the Supervisor? Who gave this company such authority? If the liquor has been stored pending its departure for Borroloola and Victoria River below the famous 15th parallel, how does it come that Borroloola and Victoria River wants such a tremendous supply all at once. Why has the liquor left the Government Railway Store and who granted the release? Has the Government forgotten its own Ordinance or does it contemplate doing away with the Government liquor store and letting Dick, Tom and Harry buy their liquor anywhere? The State Hotels were taken over by the respective lessees on the condition among others that the Government liquor store did not supply liquor to anybody within a radius of fifty miles of Darwin. Is it a case of only a bit of paper again or does the Government contemplate giving their Crown Law Officer his annual gallop by defending an action for breach of contract.

ing an action for breach of contract. If the Administrator is being Joe-keyed from South why does he not say so and get out? He is supposed to be here to see that the law is enforced, but apparently, like the Council, he has his pets, and he refrains from doing the star turn which would beget him the sympathy of the public. If the "Get Rich Quick Boucaut Bay Trading Company" feels it is moving too slowly why does it not put a proposition to buy the Territory on the lines of John Anderson Gilruth? Perhaps a Russian Republic might meet the case with our Mr. Serenikoff playing the role of leading man. This Territory is ridden to death by the hole and corner methods adopted by the Administration. Times were had enough when Gilruth was Czar but the present regime has out-Gilruthed Gilruth. If the Administration is going to stand by and let things slide please put a proclamation in the next "Government Gazette" to that effect so that the public can get busy. What about issuing a hawker's licence to itinerant would-be vendors of various brands of whisky. Now, Mr. Administrator are you getting off the buss while it's moving or are you going to see the journey out snugly from the back seat?

V. C. M. Presley, 2½ Mile Store.

**V. C. M. Presley, 2½ Mile Store,**  
has arriving by the **Marella** to-mor-  
row a consignment of fodder, oats,  
bran, potatoes, and onions, to be  
sold at very reasonable prices.

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