

and game are hereby authorized and empowered to purchase, at a rate not exceeding twenty-five per cent above the market price, lobsters with eggs attached, caught along the shore of this commonwealth. Whoever catches any such lobsters with eggs attached may safely store the same in lobster cans or section cans, used for that purpose only, and may keep them separate from other lobsters until such time as the said commissioners or some person or persons designated by them can gather and pay for them.

Said commissioners and their agents, shall liberate them in the vicinity of the location where they have been caught; or, they may at their discretion, sell any portion, or all of them to the officer in charge of the United States fish hatchery, for artificial propagation, the proceeds to be applied to the appropriation made for the enforcement of this act.

Section 2. The sum of \$5000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated for the carrying out the provisions of this act in the year 1904, and \$5000 for the year 1905, to be used at the discretion of the commissioners on fisheries and game.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The passage of the Maine law referred to is admitted to be the best piece of work possible for the preservation of the fish in these waters. The law provides that the state shall purchase from fishermen all seed lobsters caught, and when the fish cannot be turned over to the United States government hatcheries, shall liberate them in the waters where caught.

Under this law the state fisheries department purchased in 1903 up to Nov. 30, 14,173 seed lobsters. Of this number 1925 have been paid for by the United States government, their eggs taken at the Gloucester hatchery and the mother lobsters returned, with the fry, to Maine waters; 6801 have been paid for by the U. S. government and placed in a pound at Bristol, Me., to be used at the hatchery now building at Boothbay, and the remaining 5447 have been liberated in Maine waters where they were caught.

In all 383 lobsters were taken the second time, bought and liberated, 12 the third time and two the fourth time.

When bought and liberated the second time, the middle flipper of the tail is punched, leaving one small hole, the third time purchased, a second hole is punched and so on. Under the law there is no inducement for the fishermen to remove the eggs and sell seed lobsters with market lobsters, because the state pays 25 per cent. more than the market rates.

Each female lobster carries from 10,000 to 90,000 eggs. At the low average of 20,000 eggs each, the state has therefore, by the purchase of 14,000 seed lobsters, saved 200,000,000 eggs.

Jan. 28.

DAILY TIMER FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Bohemia, Bay of Islands, N. F., 800 bbls. frozen herring.
Sch. Jennie B. Hodgdon, Georges, 40,000 lbs. haddock, 2000 lbs. fresh cod.
Sch. Massachusetts, Georges, (disabled).

Today's Market.

Board of trade prices: Large handline Georges cod, \$4.50 per cwt. medium do., \$3.75; large trawl Georges, \$4.25; medium do., \$3.50; handline cod from deck, caught east of Cape Sable, \$4.25; medium do., \$3.50; large trawl bank cod, \$3.75; medium do., \$3.37 1-2; large dory handline cod, \$4.; medium do., \$3.62 1-2.

Board of Trade splitting prices on fresh fish—All cod caught on Le Have Bank and to the westward, large \$2.25; medium, \$1.70; all cod caught to the eastward of Le Have Bank large, \$2.25; medium, \$1.70; snapper cod fish, 40 cts.; cusk, \$1.60; snapper cusk, 40 cts. haddock, \$1.00; hake, \$1.10; pollock, 60 cts.

Outside sale of dory handline cod \$4.40 for large and \$3.90 for medium.

Bank halibut, 12 cts. per lb. for white and 10 cts. for gray.

Newfoundland salt herring, \$4 per bbl.

Outside sales Georges cod, \$5 per cwt. for

LEFT THE VESSEL AT MIDNIGHT.

Crew of Sch. Fernwood Had Ten Mile Dash for Life.

OTHER HERRING CRAFTS PUSHED BY ICE INTO ST. GEORGE'S BAY.

Sch. Talisman Is Hard and Fast at North Arm, Bay of Islands.

A special despatch to the TIMES this morning from Birchy Cove, Bay of Islands, gives the latest information in regard to the vessels of the frozen herring fleet which left that bay late and met the ice off Port au Port and also of the present conditions at the Bay of Islands.

The despatch is dated last night and is as follows:

"Schs. Fernwood, Parthia, Bohemia, A. M. Nicholson and Annie M. Parker sailed here January 19. Gulf ice filled up this bay January 21. The weather was very severe, with blinding snow storms and thermometer at 25 degrees below zero. Fernwood was lost on Port au Port bar in heavy field ice. Capt. Nelson and crew left vessel at midnight, ten miles off the land and reached shore safely. The other vessels in the meantime got pushed with the ice into St. George's bay near Sandy Point. They are considered safe and may get clear if ice loosens. Sch. Talisman is in the North Arm frozen in and has nearly a whole

cargo of frozen herring. Fishermen walked from her on the ice to Birchy Cove. The whole coast and gulf are reported blocked with ice."

This, in brief, is the story of a terrible struggle with ice, and the vessels which got pushed into the Bay of St. George were indeed fortunate to escape the fate of the Fernwood.

The captain and crew of sch. Fernwood must have had a nerve-wrecking experience, and by the time of leaving, it is evident that they stuck to the craft until they were compelled to flee for their lives.

With sch. Fernwood abandoned and sch. Talisman frozen in solidly at North Arm until next spring, interest now centres in the crafts in the great ice floe at Bay of St. George. These are believed to be safe and may have some chance of getting clear if the ice loosens. Of this there is nothing sure and every bit of information from them will be awaited with interest.

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large, \$4 for medium.
Georges halibut, 14 cts. per lb.

Boston.

Sch. Harmony, 20,000 haddock.
Sch. Gertrude, 42,000 haddock.
Sch. Amelia Enos, 9000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake, 500.
Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 8000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Frances Whalen, 15,000 haddock, 20,000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Metamora, 15,000 haddock, 1000 cod 3000 hake.
Sch. Moananan, 40,000 haddock, 1500 cod.
Haddock, \$1.50 to \$1.75; large cod, \$4 to \$4.50; market cod, \$3 to \$3.50; hake, \$2 to \$3; pollock, \$2.50.

Portland.

Schs. Marion E. Turner, Mildred Nunan and John A. Allen were at Portland on Tuesday.

Schs. Mary A. Smith, Capt. George Griffin, and Moses G. Linscott, Capt. Dyer, which have been laid up, are fitting for market fishing.

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Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Speculator arrived at Shelburne, N. S. on Friday.

Herring Notes.

Last week two American vessels were at Sound island and one at Barren island, looking for herring. The schooner at the latter place had secured 200 barrels but the fish are very scarce all over Placentia Bay.

Owing to the recent damage received by the steamer Harlaw making it impossible for her to visit the West Coast again this season, the refrigerator barque J. K. Manning will have to remain at North Arm, Bay of Islands, all the winter, as she was to have been towed home by the Harlaw.