

April 29

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LOBSTER LEGISLATION.

Search Law Reported to the Senate Yesterday.

House Refers Lobster Recommendations to Next General Court.

State House, Boston, April 28.—Senator Moody Kimball of Newburyport, for the committee on fisheries and game, reported in the senate yesterday, the search law as recommended by the commissioners of fisheries and game in the annual report. Representative Walker of Greenwich dissents.

This bill met with strenuous opposition on the part of the lobster fishermen all along the coast, it being their contention that the enactment of such legislation would be depriving them of their rights and liberties. Representative Tarr of Rockport stated to the committee at the hearing that in his opinion the bill would be declared unconstitutional, it being in violation of two sections of both the state and United States constitution.

The committee on fisheries and game gave a hearing on Tuesday to the advocates of the proposed legislation. Representative Tarr of Rockport with others appeared in opposition. Mr. Tarr stated to the committee that the enactment of the bill prohibiting the sale of lobsters except in their shell was unreasonable and unfair. He cited the fact that in order to preserve the meat in many instances, the fishermen were obliged to boil their catch before sending to market, and it was often considered expedient to remove the meat from the shell. Furthermore, in cold weather the live lobster is easily chilled and dies, and therefore it is imperative that they should be cooked and be marketable.

The argument of Mr. Tarr was not successfully combatted by the many advocates of the bill, who contended that this legislation was necessary to prevent the taking of short lobsters and shipping their meat to the market.

The right to search without a warrant which under the bill is conferred upon the commissioner and deputy commissioner, also members of the district police, was the objectionable feature of the proposed legislation. It is safe to predict that when the matter is reached for debate every effort will be made by the representatives of the lobster industry to prevent the enactment of the bill.

It is understood that the Cape Ann representatives will take up the cause of the lobstermen and champion their cause. An effort will be made by the members representing cities and towns affected by this legislation to solidify their forces and present a solid front in opposition to the bill when it appears in the calendar for consideration.

As a result of the combined effort of Representatives Tarr, Hubbard and McIntire, the committee on fisheries and game voted yesterday to single out of the fish and game commission annual report the recommendations regarding the lobster fishery, and recommend reference to the next general court. As a consequence, the proposed enactment of the law preventing the sale of lobster meat except in the shell, and the law licensing persons engaged in the lobster industry, will not be considered by this year's legislature.

The proposed laws were recommended as a result of the convention held at the state house last fall at which were delegates from the lobster-producing states. The delegates of each of the states represented were to recommend to their respective legislatures the passage of the laws.

Mr. Tarr further objected most strenuously to the second law as recommended by the convention, which provided for the licensing of lobstermen. He contended that as this was an honorable industry it should not be placed in the same category as the liquor traffic. He saw no good reason why persons engaged in this industry should be so encumbered with laws of all kinds and construction. To him it was manifestly unjust to give the commissioners the right of revoking the license of a fisherman before the latter had been proved guilty of breaking the law. Under the bill the commission would have the right to cause a lobsterman to surrender his permit simply when he is suspected of violating the lobster law.

In the senate yesterday afternoon, the report of the committee was accepted without debate.

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Flora L. Nickerson, via Boston, 70,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Today's Fish Market.

Board of Trade prices for salt and fresh fish:

Salt fish, handline Georges cod, \$4.37 1-2 per cwt. for large, \$3.62 1-2 for medium; trawl Georges cod, \$4.12 1-2 for large, \$3.27 1-2 for medium; trawl Bank cod, \$3.62 1-2 for large, \$3.37 1-2 for medium; hake, \$1.25; pollock, \$1.25; haddock, \$1.75; large cusk, \$2.50.

Fresh fish, large cod, \$2.25; medium cod, \$1.75; all cod caught to the eastward of La-Have bank, \$2, medium \$1.50; cusk, \$1.62 1-2; haddock, \$1; hake, \$1; pollock, 70 cts.

Outside sales Georges handline cod, \$4 3/8 for large and \$3 5/8 for mediums.

Boston.

Sch. Nellie Dixon.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Lawrence Murdock put into Portsmouth, yesterday, for bait.

ANOTHER NETTER IN.

Sch. A. C. Newhall at New York with 90 Mackerel.

The netter A. C. Newhall arrived at New York this morning with 90 fresh mackerel.

THOUGHT TO BE LOST.

Fears for Safety of Essex-Built Whaling Vessel.

Fears are entertained for the safety of the whaling sch. Carrie D. Knowles of Provincetown. The craft left that port for Dominica on Jan. 27 a 20 days' trip, and since that time nothing has been heard from the vessel. Soon after her departure the steamer Lancastrian (from across the "pond") reported having passed a vessel of fishing model bottom upward.

It has been rumored that the Knowles was seen by a Gloucester fishing boat somewhere on the southern part of Georges, and that the fishing craft experienced hurricane weather the following night.

The Knowles was built at Essex in 1887 and measures 121.14 tons gross and 115.09 tons net.

WEEKLY FISH MARKET.

Trade the past week has been very dull and the market is quiet and steady, with little or no changes from last quotations. Receipts of ground fish have been good and last week's prices have been sustained, excepting that salt handline and trawl Georges cod have been dropped an eighth to meet the last outside sales.

Most discouraging reports come from the southern mackerel fleet, which with nine days of fine weather and cruising from Cape Charles to Fire Island, failed to find any mackerel. The season there is now short, before Cape Shore time, and with the light nights, which are unfavorable for the seiners, the prospect of a successful season is not at all encouraging.

The school of fish have struck on the Peak and Western bank and the shack fleet has had fine fishing, bringing in many big fares. The salt bankers have used up their frozen baiting and most of them are now at Nova Scotia ports for fresh bait or else trying to get by the ice to the Newfoundland coast for bait and where good codfishing is reported.

The receipts at this port for the week ending April 30 are

176,000 lbs. salt cod.
1,132,000 lbs. fresh cod.
30,000 lbs. halibut.
195,000 lbs. haddock.
70,000 lbs. hake.
107,000 lbs. cusk.
90,000 lbs. pollock.
1000 qtls. cured fish.
50 bbls. fresh alewives.
100 bbls. flitchers.

Salt Fish from Vessel.

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Board of Trade Prices
Outside Sales

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Large Georges cod (handline) | 4.37 1-2 | 4.37 1-2 |
| Medium Georges cod (handline) | 3.62 1-2 | 3.62 1-2 |
| Large Georges cod (trawl) | 4.12 1-2 | 4.12 1-2 |
| Medium Georges cod (trawl) | 3.37 1-2 | 3.37 1-2 |
| Large handline cod from deck caught east of Cape Sable | | |
| Medium do. | | |
| Large trawl bank cod | 3.62 1-2 | 3.62 1-2 |
| Medium trawl bank cod | 3.37 1-2 | 3.37 1-2 |
| Large dory handline cod | | |
| Medium do. | | |

Fresh Fish from Vessel.

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| All large cod caught on La Have bank and to the westward | 2.25 | 2.25 |
| Medium do. | 1.75 | 1.75 |
| All large cod caught to the eastward of La Have Bank | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Medium do. | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| Cusk | 1.62 1-2 | 1.62 1-2 |
| Haddock | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Hake | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Pollock | .70 | .70 |

Other Prices from Vessel.

Hake sounds, 5 to 5 1-2 cts. per lb.
Livers, soft 30 cts. per bucket; hard, 30 cts. per bucket.
Fresh Bank halibut (white) 9 cts. per lb.
Fresh Bank halibut (gray) 7 cts. per lb.
Georges halibut, 9 cts and 7 cts. per lb. for white and gray.

Local Quotations of Cured Fish.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Cured Large Georges cod | \$7.00 per qttl. |
| Cured Medium Georges cod | 6.25 |
| Cured large Bank cod | 6.25 |
| Cured Medium Bank cod | 5.75 |
| Kench cured large Bank cod | 6.50 |
| Kench cured medium Bank cod | 6.00 |
| Cured large shore cod | 7.00 |
| Cured medium shore cod | 5.75 |
| Cured cusk | 5.00 |
| Cured hake | 2.50 to 3 |
| Cured haddock | 4.25 |
| Heavy salted pollock | 2.87 1-2 |
| English cured pollock | 4.00 |
| Large handline bank | 6.50 |
| Medium handline bank | \$6.00 |

Mackerel.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Shore 1s | \$16 to \$17 per bbl. |
| Shore extra 1s | 18 to 19 per bbl. |
| Shore bloaters | 20 per bbl. |
| Nova Scotias | 14 per bbl. |
| Prince Edward Island | 15 per bbl. |
| Norway bloaters | 34 per bbl. |
| Norway 1s | 27 per bbl. |
| Norway 2s | 23 per bbl. |
| | 14 per bbl. |

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April 30

May 2

May 2

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. O'ga, Brown's Bank, 90,000 lbs. fresh fish.
 Sch. J. W. Lufkin, Brown's Bank, 40,000 lbs. fresh fish.
 Sch. Moanam, via Boston, 80,000 lbs. fresh fish.
 Sch. Emily Cooney, Brown's Bank, 40,000 lbs. fresh fish.
 Sch. Nannie C. Bohlin, via Boston, 35,000 lbs. fresh fish.

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Boston.

Sch. Minerva, 5000 haddock, 4000 cod, 600 hake.

Sch. Olivia Sears, 3000 fresh fish.

Haddock \$2, cod \$2.50.

Provincetown Notes.

Sloop Nancy, Capt. Edward Walter Smith, secured 40 bbls. sand eels Sunday which were disposed of to the fishermen for bait.

Sloop Florence sailed Tuesday evening for south netting.

One mackerel, the first to appear this season, was taken in a North Truro trap yesterday.

Steamer A. B. Nickerson has landed 110,000 lbs. pollock and codfish at this port and Gloucester since Saturday last.

Pickerts salt fish wharf has been a busy place the past week. Friday 70,000 pollock were purchased, Saturday 40,000, and on Monday a large quantity were taken.

109,000 pollock were landed at Perkins wharf last Friday.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Tacoma was at Halifax yesterday.

FANCY PRICE FOR MACKEREL.

Fish of Sch. A. C. Newhall Bring 50 Cents Each.

The small lot of fresh mackerel which Sch. A. C. Newhall landed at Fulton Market yesterday brought the fancy price of 50 cents each.

Fish Commission Figures.

The bureau of fisheries of the department of commerce and labor reports that for the month of March 2,882,107 pounds of fresh fish and 414,120 pounds of salt fish were landed at this port and 9,174,400 pounds of fresh fish landed at Boston.

May 2

GRAMPUS BRINGS LOBSTERS.

Seed Will Be Stripped for the Local Fish Hatchery.

U. S. Fish Commission sch. Grampus arrived from the Maine coast this morning with the first consignment of seed lobsters of the season. The crustaceans will be stripped of the seed for propagation work at the Ten Pound Island hatchery and the Grampus will then take them back to the Maine coast.

Good Stocks.

Sch. Thalia, Capt. Ernest Engstrom, stocked \$1380 on her recent Georges halibut trip, the crew sharing \$50.

Sch. Jubilee, Capt. Oscar Lyons, stocked \$1162 on the first salt Rips trip of the season.

Sch. Moanam, Capt. Hugh Quinlan, stocked \$1950 on her recent shack trip, the crew sharing \$45.

Trout for the Alewife Brook.

Deputy Fish Commissioner William W. Nixon of this city, of the Massachusetts fish and game commission, has planted 4000 trout fry in the alewife brook this week. He has been engaged in planting trout fry from the Winchester hatchery in streams all over the state, having put into the water some 225,000 fry.

VALUABLE CONCESSIONS.

Made United States Firm by Newfoundland Legislature.

HAY-BOND TREATY SUPERSEDED.

Will Ship Fish to This Country Free of Duty.

The following extracts from a St. John's dispatch to the Halifax Herald, signed "Norman Smith," will be read with considerable interest here:

A bill passed last week by the legislative assembly of Newfoundland has rendered very remote the ratification of the Bond-Hay treaty.

The bill which the assembly of the colony has just passed provides for the granting of assistance to a United States company which proposes to go into the cold-storage business on a large scale. The company is guaranteed for twenty years a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on a capital of half a million dollars on condition that \$250,000 is spent on a cold-storage plant and \$200,000 expended yearly in the purchase of fish in the island for export. The company also undertakes to preserve bait in cold-storage, and distribute the same at a reasonable price wherever it is needed by Newfoundland fishermen, an undertaking that will undoubtedly be a great boon to the fishermen, enabling them, as it will, to overcome the difficulty they have hitherto labored under, of frequently being unable to obtain bait in localities where fishing is good.

The company, as has been said, intends to go into the business on a very large scale, and instead of being capitalized at half a million it will probably issue stock to the extent of two or three millions, and instead of spending \$250,000 on plant, a million will be nearer the mark. It proposes to establish a central cold-storage station, and a number of sub-stations in various parts of the island. At these sub-stations fish will be purchased,

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shipped to the central depot and thence to the United States.

The American duty on fish, both fresh and dried, averages about three-quarters of a cent per pound. The Bond-Hay treaty looks to the removal of the duty on dried fish, the Washington authorities refusing absolutely to consider any change in respect to fresh fish.

The Newfoundland Cold-storage Company, the concern which has been given assistance by the island government, will be able to ship fish, both fresh and dried, into the United States free of duty, and this is how it can be done:

The law department at Washington has given an incontrovertible opinion that under an Anglo-American treaty signed in 1818, any American citizen may fish in certain waters of Newfoundland, and that the fish so caught in such water are not liable to duty in the United States. On representations from the Newfoundland Cold-storage Company that certain disabilities exist preventing Americans from deriving full benefit from the treaty concessions, and that it proposes to remove those disabilities by employing Newfoundland fishermen to assist in supplying the company with fish, the Washington authorities have declared that there is nothing to prevent all the fish shipped in American bottoms by the company to the United States from entering free of duty, even though not entirely caught by American fishermen.

In other words, the company referred to can apparently take into its employ, if it chooses, all the Newfoundland fishermen, and ship the product of their labors into the United States free of duty.

The bill providing for the guarantee was a special bill, and, therefore, practically grants a monopoly to the company, and hands over to it, to all intents and purposes, the control of the bait supply.

An idea of the concession which has been granted to the company may be gathered from the fact that should it confine its operations to storing and shipping 50 tons of fish per day, the saving in the American duty at three-quarters of a cent per pound will alone amount to \$225,000 yearly. The company proposes, however, to operate a line of steamers, and the probability is that its output will be from 100 to 150 tons per day.

The company originally proposed to export the fish to the United States in bond via Sydney, Cape Breton, establishing at that point a cold-storage warehouse, but the severity of the past winter having proven that Sydney is not a winter port, it is more probable that this idea will be abandoned and Boston made the receiving port.

All the advantages of the agreement will not by any means be on the side of the company. The island fishermen will undoubtedly benefit very considerably. They will obtain not only all the advantages of the Bond-Hay treaty, but their fresh fish will be admitted into the United States free; they will have the benefits of a great modern cold-storage system, and in addition will be enabled to obtain frozen bait in localities where bait is scarce.

The Newfoundland government still expects to put through the Bond-Hay treaty, but to every one who has studied the details of the concession granted to the American company, no reason is apparent why the Washington government should do anything. When the Gloucester interests are informed of the proposals of the company, there probably will be wigs on the green; but the Newfoundland act has been duly signed and the Washington law authorities have given an opinion in writing that would be extremely difficult to upset.