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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WEATHER QUESTION.

It's all right to tell about this fine weather and I hope that it will continue, but there is another side to it. It's fine to be able to say that you have only used four tons of coal against seven or eight tons last winter. It's all right to say that you did not have to buy any new heavy clothes and that your wife concluded to make her old set of furs go, whereas if it had been cold and stormy, new ones she would have to have had. It's all right to tell about how much money the street railway and the city have been able to save because they had no snow shovelling.

It's all right to tell and think about these things, but just look at the other side of it and see if you think it is quite as good as you first thought. See if you don't think it would have been better all around if we had been having regular winter weather. In the first place, in considering this question, we must look at all sides, the rich and the poor, the consumer and the producer.

Now as the result of not having to buy so much coal, somebody has got to suffer, either the dealers, the owners of vessels who carry it and their crews laid off for lack of charters, or men who handle coal all along the route from the time it leaves the mine.

Then, you have not had to buy the usual supply of warm clothing. Well, somebody has to suffer by that; it may be the dealers with their big stocks on hand or the people engaged in making things usually used in winter.

Then take the ice problem. It's so warm that the prospect of a crop hereabouts is nil and even farther to the eastward and up in the country it is not any too good for an average cutting. This tends to mean high-priced ice next summer, which will be felt by all, and particularly by the poor in the congested districts of our great sweltering cities. This means suffering, illness to many and perhaps death to some.

Then again, there has been no snow to shovel on the railroads and highways. This much that hundreds of men have not been able to get the days of labor that they usually count on for the support of themselves and their families at this season of the year.

Then, getting right down to home facts, take the fish business. Everybody knows that, because of this unnatural warm spell, the salt fish trade is dull and our big dealers are feeling it and the fish they have on hand is high priced. Look at the spectacle of many big trips of fresh fish, almost alive, coming here all through this warm winter, to be split and salted, simply because there is no market for them. It is so warm that fish cannot be shipped the usual distances without spoiling and what is taken to supply the present poor market is brought at a very low price. This low price is caused also because the vessels are bringing an almost unheard of amount of fish. These great hauls are all owing to the extra fine weather, vessels being able to fish day after day without interruption and land big fare after big fare, until the market is fairly glutted.

A natural winter would mean a better market, a bigger demand, a much higher price and consequently more money for the owners, and what is perhaps more important, it means

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more money for the fishermen and their families. It means much ready money put right out of circulation, for fishermen are the best spenders on earth. So bad has the season been on them that some have actually stayed ashore for a trip or two, feeling that what they got did not pay them for the actual work done.

The fishermen, owners and dealers are actually praying for cold, rough and stormy weather and they need it. And all this dullness of the fish trade and the great amount of fresh fish being brought here to split may have its effect on the price of the spring and early summer trips of the salt and fresh fish fleet.

So look at it from almost any point you will, and considering both sides of the question, it would seem that after all, a good natural winter, with its usual quota of cold weather, storms and snow, would be better all around than the present unnatural spell of warm air, clear skies and absence of snow and storms.

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DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Kentucky, Brown's Bank, 75,000 lbs. fresh fish, 1600 lbs halibut.

Sch. Jubilee, Maine Coast, 500 bbls. frozen herring.

Sch. Mary E. Cooney, shore.

Sch. Emily Cooney, shore.

Sch. Pythian, shore.

Sch. Catherine D. Enos, shore.

Sch. Regina, via Boston.

Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore.

Sch. Latona, via Boston, 30,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, shore.

Sch. A. C. Newhall, shore.

Sch. Manomet, shore.

Sch. Ramona, shore.

Today's Fish Market.

These prices are based on the last known sales.

Salt handline Georges codfish, $5.25 per cwt. for large, $4.25 for medium.

Salt trawl Georges codfish, $5 for large, 4.00 for medium.

Salt hake, $1.25.

Salt haddock, $1.75.

Salt cusk, $2.50.

Salt trawl bank codfish, $4.50 for large, $4.00 for medium, $2.75 for snappers.

Newfoundland salt herring, in bulk, $4.50 per bbl.

Newfoundland salt herring, barrelled, $5.75 per bbl.

Newfoundland frozen herring for bait, $3 00 per cwt.

Shore frozen herring, for bait, $2,50 per cwt.

Fresh halibut, 12 cents per lb for white and 8 cents for gray.

Splitting prices of fresh fish, large cod, $2.40 medium cod, $1.50; haddock, $1.00; hake 90 cts.; cusk, $1.50; pollock, 65 cts.

Boston.

Sch. Dixie, 500 haddock, 34,000 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. John M. Keen, 9000 haddock, 700 cod, 2000 pollock.

Sch. Mystery, 12,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 30,000 hake, 10,000 cusk.

Sch. Alcina, 55,000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. M. Madeline, 13,000 cod.

Sch. Mina Swim, 14,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 6000 hake.

Sch. Mildred V. Nunan, 4000 haddock, 500 cod, 10,000 hake.

Sch. Carrie F. Roberts, 2000 cod.

Sch. Mary Edith, 12,000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 10,000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Gov. Russell, 20,000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Emelia Enos, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Catherine Burke, 18,000 haddock, 18,000 cod, 2000 hake, 7000 cusk.

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Sch. Louise C. Cabral, 12,000 haddock, 3000 cod.

Sch. Mattie Brundage, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 hake.

Str. Quartette, 2500 haddock, 2500 cod.

Sch. Rita A. Viator, 5000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Massasoit, 13,500 cod.

Sch. Flavilla, 12,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch Valentinna, 11,000 cod.

Sch. Mary Cabral, 3500 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Tecumseh, 3500 haddock, 5000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Seaconnet, 32,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 1200 hake.

Sch. Mary C. Santos, 36,000 haddock, 500 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Fish Hawk, 10,000 haddock, 700 cod, 700 hake.

Haddock, $1 to $1.25; large cod, $3; market cod $1 to $1.50; hake, $1 to $2.50; pollock, $2 to $3.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Claudia, Capt. Leonard Crowell, has fitted for a fresh and salt trip.

Fresh Herring the Year Round.

This has been the most remarkable winter in the history of Casco Bay. For the first time in three years herring have remained in the bay all winter and reports which came up from the lower islands yesterday morning are that large quantities of them are still being taken in Quoghog Bay and other inlets of the greater Casco Bay.

The fact that herring are remaining in the bay has also resulted in there being some of the finest fishing in that body of water for many years, and yesterday it was stated that large cod were being taken in good sized numbers in Broad Sound by fishermen from Great Chebeague, Long and the other islands of the lower and upper bay.

PASSED SCHOOLS OF HERRING.

Thousands of Barrels Seen Off Seguin by Sch. Margarett.

Capt. George H. Wonson of this city, who commands sch. Margarett of Beverly and who arrived at Searsport, Me., last Tuesday, writes to the TIMES that last Saturday night, while running from Portland to Searsport and between Seguin and Monhegan, they passed through school after school of herring. There seemed to be thousands of barrels lying there in large schools.

Halibut Sale.

The fare of sch. Carrie C. was sold to the New England Fish Company at 12 cents per pound for white and 8 cents for gray.

Three cars of Pacific halibut arrived at Boston yesterday.

Herring Notes.

Sch. Jubilee arrived here this morning from the Maine coast with 500 bbls. frozen herring.

Sch. W. E. Morrissey opened her cargo of frozen herring here yesterday and began baiting vessels without delay.

The latest reports from Fortune Bay, N. F., say that the herring season there has been a complete failure, no herring at all having been taken either there or at Connaigre Bay.