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THE SPRING AWAKENING OF THE FLEET.

The Gloucester fishing fleet is having its annual spring awakening and the next few weeks, as far forth as fitting out and changing over voyages, will be the busiest of the year.

The latter part of February and month of March is practically the beginning of a new year for the fishing fleet of this port. It is then that the vessels make ready for the fishing that will employ them all the year until next winter. Crafts that have been hauled up all winter are overhauled, painted, and put in the best of shape and made ready for business. Others that have been haddocking are hauled out and fitted for other lines. The salt bank, Georges halibuting, Rips and other fleets are thus formed and by the middle of March or first of April, all are away on their respective voyages.

This season of fitting out is a busy one. Everything takes on new life. Owners, skippers and crews are busy, riggers and sailmakers have their hands full and longshoremen have but few idle moments. Big crafts laden with salt come from across the ocean, and their cargoes find their ways into the holds of vessels and warehouses. Topmasts spring up everywhere, paint and varnish and tar are on all sides and everything is hustle and bustle.

It is at this time of the year that Gloucester sets forth on her annual venture, the spring, summer and fall fisheries. Full of hope her men go at it, all from owner to hand optimistic and hoping for success. Failure is not thought of, but all look ahead with confidence to success in the undertakings.

The big salt bankers, the big backbone of the fleet, are now sailing daily, and the Georgesmen and Georges halibuters and Bank halibuters are rounding Eastern Point as fast as they can be made ready. The seining skippers are looking over the seines and boats and having them put in order, and but a few weeks now will see the yachtlike craft spread their sails for the waters of the south, there to pursue the elusive mackerel.

Soon the Rips fleet will be getting away and then the winter haddock fleet, then pretty well thinned in ranks, will provide crafts for the shack fishery, while a few will still continue to fish for the market. The little mackerel netters will be next in line and with their large gangs of nets will sail for the south, where their big seining brothers have gone ahead of them in search of mackerel, and then the season will be fairly on.

It means much this fitting out season does to Gloucester. Success may come from it or failure, but come what may, Gloucester awaits it with equanimity. She knows from the experience of nearly three centuries of years that all will not show a balance on the right side of the ledger in the fall, still she hopes for the best and is not cast down because a few ventures fail, while the majority succeed. She take one year with the other and awaits the result.

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She knows that some of the staunch craft may never return, that some of the hardy fellows, who sing and whistle as they fit out, may never come back to tread her streets. She knows that gales will come and the ice fields will be met by some and that crafts will be damaged, yet year after year she goes on, fitting out her fleet to cruise from Hatteras to Greenland, always hoping for the best and always realizing that the worst may occur. Courage and faith the men and women of Gloucester need and courage and faith they have and have always had, else the fisheries of the port would years ago have been but a name and a memory.

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QUEER HAUL.

Eight Cucumber Fish Brought in by Trawler Spray.

Eight cucumber fish, a great rarity on this coast and seldom seen at Boston were hauled up in the net of the otter trawler Spray on her recent trip and were preserved alive and on board. An agent of the New York aquarium viewed the cod fish and they may be sent to that city. The fish are about eight inches long and two inches in diameter, a perfect reproduction of a large green cucumber. The fish expands until a sort of fan tail appears at one end.

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Porto Rico Fish Market.

From Porto Rico, S. Ramirez & Co. of San Juan, report February 7: "Our last advices were dated January 30, since when the only arrivals of fishstuffs were some 100 casks dry fish ex City of Savannah from New York. The demand continues fairly good, but prices remain rather stationary, it proving very difficult to advance values ever so little. We quote as follows net ex wharf: Medium codfish, $6 to $6.25; haddock, $4.75 to $5; (quite neglected): pollock, $4.25 to $4.50; hake, $2.50 to $2.75 (quite neglected); split herring, $5.75 to $6 per bbl.; smoked herring, 13 1-2 cents per box.

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Good Stock.

Sch. Catherine G. Howard, Capt. William Doyle, stocked $2200 as the result of her recent fresh codfishing trip to the Grand Bank.

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DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Francis J. O'Hara, via Boston, 50,000 lbs, fresh fish.

Sch. Mary E. Cooney, via Boston.

Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, via Boston.

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, $4.75 for large, 3.75 for medium.

Salt hake, $1.00.

Salt haddock, $1.50.

Salt cusk, $2.25.

Salt trawl bank codfish, $3.50 for large, $3.00 for medium.

Newfoundland frozen herring for bait, $3.00 per cwt.

Shore frozen herring, for bait, $2.50 per cwt.

Fresh halibut, 10 cents per lb. for white and 6 1-2 cts. for gray.

Splitting prices of fresh fish: Large Eastern cod, $1.87 1-2; medium do., $1.37 1-2; large Western cod, $2.12 1-2; medium do., $1.50; haddock, 85 cts.; cusk, $1.25; hake, 80 cts.; pollock, 65 cts.

Boston.

Sch. Flora S. Nickerson, 9000 haddock, 5000 cod.

Sch. Massasoit, 19,000 cod.

Sch. M. Madeleine, 500 haddock, 22,000 cod, 500 pollock.

Sch. Beulah Maud, 2000 cod.

Sch. Frances V. Silva, 11,000 haddock, 3000 cod.

Sch. Mary Edith, 6000 haddock, 7000 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Mary Cabral, 9000 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Rose Dorothea, 15,000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Valentinna, 1000 haddock, 25,000 cod.

Sch. Senconnet, 21,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 1000 hake.

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

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Capt. Vincent Nelson is here to fit sch. Senator Gardner for salt banking.

Capt. Wilson Spinney will fit sch. American for salt banking in a few days.

Sch. Matthew Keany is being fitted for Georges handlining.

Provincetown Notes.

Monday of last week was a banner day for the small boats fishing in the bay, nearly all of which secured big hauls of fish which netted good pay even if the price was not at the top notch.

One dory secured 52,000 pounds of fish from one barrel of herring the past week.

The storm of last Friday, February 9, was quite severe for a few hours, but luckily no serious damage resulted along the harbor front. Among the mishaps resulting from the storm were the breaking adrift of John D. Silva's sloop from her moorings and as the craft drifted down alongside of R. R. wharf, she broke bowsprit and mainboom and damaged side. Joseph Roberts and Joseph Cabral succeeded in getting aboard the sloop and after starting the gasoline engine the craft was worked away from the wharf and tied up under the lee of J. D. Hilliard's wharf. Sch. William Walker also broke away from Bangs' wharf and started leaking. The sloop owned by John O'Neil broke away from wharf and broke mainboom and filled with water.

Capt. Eli McKay, whose illness was previously noted, died at his home February 8 and was buried the following Sunday.

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FRESH FISH GALORE.

More Than Enough Here and at Boston Today.

Many Big Trips Fairly Glut All Markets.

The unprecedented amount of fresh fish landed this winter and the almost unheard-of number of big trips for this time of the year, which have been steadily piling in received a big addition at this port and Boston yesterday afternoon and this morning.

Instead of the usual 30,000 to 50,000 pound trips at this season with big prices assured, it is now just like the height of the midsummer shacking season, with a great overplus of fish and big trip following big trip and nearly all, or about 70 or 80 per cent. of all, going to split, being brought to this port to go in the butts and at prices while admittedly low are still higher than could hardly be expected. It is a state of affairs not seen in the winter fresh fishery for a great number of years and perhaps has never been equalled.

The trips began to arrive here yesterday noon. Two trips from Boston, schs. Mary G. Powers and Francis J. O'Hara, Jr., were already here to take out, when sch. Monarch, Capt. Thomas Downey, came in with 90,000 or more. Then sch. Mary F. Curtis, Capt. Henry A. Curtis, came in with 80,000 and was followed by sch. Matchless with 75,000, each of these three crafts having a few halibut beside. Then about 3.30 o'clock sch. Dictator Capt. Horace Wilde, sailed up the harbor and looked like a sand barge. The captain hailed the fare for 155,000 pounds, and it went without saying that she had all of that and more. She had been out only nine days and had fished on Georges, the fare being the largest of the season.

"Talk about steam trawlers," disgustingly remarked one longshoreman, as sch. Dictator went up by the wharves, "well, what's the use of them when a regerlar trawler can do that in nine days? Bet his fish ain't all scaled either."

After sch. Dictator came sch. Flora S. Nickerson from Boston with 60,000 pounds.

This morning found sch. Manhassett here with 50,000 pounds of nice fish, good enough for any market, but they had to go to split. Then sch. Ella M. Goodwin came along with 100,000, and on top of this came the word that there were seven or eight big trips in Boston, and that they too have to come here and go to the splitters.

The Boston report showed the following big fares there: sch. Vera, Capt. Maurice Whalen, 95,000 pounds; sch. Thomas S. Gorton, Capt. William H. Thomas, 100,000 pounds; sch. Slade Gorton, Capt. George E. Heckman, 105,000 pounds, sch. Fanny Belle Atwood, Capt. Freeman Mason, 90,000 pobnds; sch. Benj. F. Phillips, 70,000 pounds; sch. Mocanam, 55,000 pounds; sch. Selma, Capt. Wm. H. Goodwin, 85,000 pounds and sch. Ellen F. Gleason with 57,000 pounds.

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DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Flora S. Nickerson, via Boston, 60,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Flora S. Nickerson, Banks.
Sch. Stranger, shore.
Sch. Emily Cooney, shore.
Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.
Sch. Mary Cabral, shore.
Sch. Reta A. Veator, shore.
Sch. Defender, shore.
Sch. Mary A. Gleason, shore.
Sch. James S. Steele, shore.
Sch. Manomet, shore.
Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore.
Sch. Dictator, Georges, 160,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Ella M. Goodwin, La Have Bank, 100,000 lbs. fresh fish, 1000 lbs. halibut.
Sch. Quonnapowitt, via Boston.
Sch. Manhasset, via Boston, 50,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Minerva, shore.

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Salt trawl Georges codfish, $4.75 for large, 3.75 for medium.

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Boston.

Sch. Margaret Dillon, 13,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Nokomis, 15,000 cod.
Sch. Mocanam, 50,000 haddock, 2500 cod.
Sch. Quartette, 1000 haddock, 3000 cod.
Sch. Rapidan, 15,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Motor, 20,000 cod.
Sch. Vera, 60,000 haddock, 15,000 cod, 20,000 cusk.
Sch. Thomas S. Gorton, 90,000 haddock, 7000 cod.
Sch. Walter P. Goulart, 6000 haddock, 500 cod.
Sch. Slade Gorton, 100,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 1000 halibut.
Sch. Fanny Belle Atwood, 65,000 haddock, 25,000 cod, 1500 halibut.
Sch. Teresa and Alice, 12,000 haddock, 500 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Esther Gray, 1800 haddock, 6000 cod.
Sch. Olive F. Hutchins, 6000 haddock, 3000 cod.
Sch. Gertrude, 10,000 haddock, 4000 cod.
Sch. George E. Lane, Jr., 6000 haddock, 23,000 cod.
Sch. Buema, 2500 haddock, 2000 cod.
Sch, Selma, 22,000 haddock, 40,000 cod, 10,000 cusk, 9000 pollock.
Sch. Pythian, 2000 haddock, 500 cod.
Sch. Joseph H. Cromwell, 4000 haddock, 6000 cod.
Sch. Benj. F. Phillips, 65,000 haddock, 5000 cod.
Sch. Etta Mildred, 18,000 haddock, 500 cod.
Sch. Thomas W. Knight, 6000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 2000 haddock.
Sch. Henrietta G. Martin, 2000 haddock, 500 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Louisa R. Silva, 14,000 haddock, 8000 cod, 3000 hake.

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Sch. Gov. Russell, 16,000 haddock, 4000 cod.
Sch. Shepherd King, 2000 haddock, 600 cod, 500 hake.
Sch. Ramona, 5000 haddock, 2000 cod, 6000 hake.
Sch. Mary E. Silveira, 5000 haddock, 500 cod.
Sch. Diana, 4000 cod.
Sch. Maud F. Silva, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Ellen F. Gleason, 55,000 haddock, 2000 cod.
Sch. A. C. Newhall, 3000 haddock.

Haddock, $1 to $1.75; large cod, $2.50 to $2.75; market cod, $1.; hake, $1 to $4; pollock, $2.50 to $3.

Market very dull, about all the big trips going to Gloucester.

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TO EXCEPT CODFISH.

Dr. Wiley Sees Justice of Gloucester's Contention.

FOR USING BORIC ACID IN CURING

Will Favor Amendment Before House Committee.

A despatch from Washington gives some important information which will be received here with very much satisfaction, as follows:

"Prof. Wiley, chemist of the department of agriculture, intends to advocate before the house committee on interstate commerce the adoption of an amendment to the pure food bill, excepting from its provisions pickles and codfish. Its adoption will remove a serious objection against the measure."

The above dispatch would tend to show that the trip of President Thomas J. Carroll, William F. Moore and Benjamin A. Smith, the Board of Trade committee, to Washington last week and their appearance before the committee on interstate and foreign commerce on the pure food bill, as well as their conference with Dr. Wiley on the same matter, has been productive of good results. The only contention the committee made against the bill was that they be allowed to use boric acid to a certain amount on codfish, and it would seem from the despatch that their arguments carried much weight and that the justice of them was recognized.