

December 14

CAPT. SMITH NOT FINED.

St. John's Despatch Regarding Net Stealing Incorrect.

Men Fined Were Four He Shipped at North Sydney.

A despatch from St. John's, N. F., on December 6, published in the Boston papers next day, stated that Capt. Smith and three men of sch. Colonial of this port were tried at Bay of Islands, N. F., on charge of stealing nets belonging to Newfoundland vessels and fined \$65 each.

The Times of December 7, in commenting on the despatch, took the ground that the despatch must be mistaken in regard to a man of Capt. Smith's good standing being guilty of stealing nets, and advanced the idea that probably some of the crew had probably been fined for underrunning nets belonging to others.

The owners of the vessel, Gardner & Parsons, received no word regarding the matter, which they probably would have soon after or in a few days at least, had the despatch been correct.

The St. John's Herald of December 7, received at this office this morning, solves the matter by publishing the following message received there that morning by Hon. E. Dawe, Minister of Fisheries, from Inspector O'Reilly of the Newfoundland cutter Fiona, then at Bay of Islands:

"William Brake, George Tobin, James Quirk and Colin Walsh were today charged with feloniously stealing and taking away to fleet four nets, the property of Joseph Dufford of sch. Maggie Burin. Convicted and sentenced, fined \$50 or three months, and \$25 compensation. Those men belong to Sydney, and are fishermen on board the Gloucester fishing schooner Colonial, Smith master. Herring are scarce the past ten days."

From this it will be seen that Capt. Smith had no hand in the affair, neither did any of the crew he carried from this port, but that the men fined were some that he shipped as fishermen at North Sydney, C. B., on the way to Bay of Islands. Although the first despatch was not generally credited, the friends of Capt. Smith will be glad to have their convictions backed up by the official message of Inspector O'Reilly.

December 14

STRUCK ON LONG BAR.

First Particulars of Loss of Sch. Alert.

CRAFT TOOK FIRE SOON AFTER.

Captain and Crew Had Hard Time Getting Ashore.

The first particulars of the loss of the gasolene auxiliary sch. Alert of this port, while bound to Bay of Islands, N. F., is contained in a message sent by the customs official of Port au Port, N. F., last Saturday, to the deputy minister of customs at St. John's, N. F. Nothing had been learned here beyond that the vessel was a total loss, and that Alex. Grant, one of the crew was drowned. Even the place where the craft was lost has not been known here.

The dispatch above referred to reads as follows:

"The auxiliary sch. Alert, Vautier, master, of Gloucester, was driven ashore at Blue Beach last Tuesday night, took fire and everything was destroyed, while one of the crew was drowned. The vessel was evidently on her way to Bay of Islands when the storm that has caused so much damage on the West Coast overtook her. The wind was on the land and she ran on that stretch of coast forming Port-au-Port Point and a dangerous place at any time. The crew must have suffered severely prior to and after landing as there is no shelter for miles."

December 14

Sch. Manomet, 600 haddock, 1500 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. James S. Steele, 7000 haddock, 5000 cod.

Sch. Minerva, 2700 cod.

Sch. Mary Edith, 3500 haddock, 600 cod.

Sch. Theresa and Alice, 1000 haddock, 500 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Sylvia M. Nunan, 4000 haddock, 4000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 1500 haddock.

Sch. Mildred Y. Nunan, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Mattakeesett, 2000 haddock, 300 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Ellen F. Gleason, 3000 haddock, 500 cod, 7000 hake.

Sch. Emily Cooney, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Queen of the Sea, 500 haddock.

Sch. Esther Gray, 1000 haddock, 6500 cod.

Sch. Hobo, 10,000 cod.

Sch. Hope, 5000 haddock, 2000 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. A. C. Newhall, 600 haddock, 600 cod.

Sch. Ralph Russell, 5000 pollock.

Sch. Alice M. Guthrie, 4000 haddock, 2000 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Genesta, 3500 haddock, 700 cod.

Sch. Olive S. Hutchings, 3000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1500 hake.

Sch. Joseph H. Cromwell, 3000 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Flavilla, 6000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2500 hake.

Sch. Mary E. Silveira, 3000 haddock.

Sch. Mattie D. Brundage, 3500 haddock, 500 cod, 1500 hake.

Sch. Kernwood, 8000 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 hake.

Haddock, \$4 per cwt.; large cod, \$4; marlin cod, \$3 to \$5; hake, \$3.50.

December 15

IN BLINDING SNOWSTORM.

Sch. Alert Dragged Her Anchor and Went Ashore.

CREW JUMPED FOR THEIR LIVES

Overturned Stove Caused Vessel To Take Fire.

Capt. John E. Vautier and crew of the lost sch. Alert of this port arrived at North Sydney, C. B., yesterday, being passengers on the steamer Bruce, which arrived there from Port au Basques, N. F. Capt. Vautier and his men tell a tale of hardship and narrow escape from death when the vessel struck.

The men of the Alert say that when off Red Islands, on December 4, they encountered one of the worst gales that ever swept the coast of Newfoundland. A blinding snowstorm, accompanied by a terrible sea and high wind made the only thing to do, as a chance to save the craft and all hands, was to try and make Port au Port.

During the afternoon the wind increased in fury and veered to the southwest. The vessel, dragging her anchor, was finally thrown on the rocks some distance from shore. So suddenly did the disaster occur that the men were compelled to jump overboard and leave everything behind. The third man to make the jump from the doomed vessel was Grant, who lost his life in the surf.

The vessel struck the rocks at 3.30 o'clock on the afternoon of the 4th inst, and about 4 o'clock, a stove becoming overturned caused the vessel to take fire. The blaze, fanned by the awful wind, sent the flames spreading over the vessel, and in less time than 35 minutes from the time she struck, the Alert, together with her gear and men's belongings, was destroyed.

December 15

LUCKY MAN.

Capt. Perry Found Trawls He Thought Were Lost.

Capt. George H. Perry of sch. Theresa and Alice was one of the happiest men at T wharf, Boston, yesterday morning. He had gone out Wednesday night with the feeling that he had lost 56 tubs of trawls with anchors and buoys, and brought them back with him. They were valued at about \$550.

December 15

Lost Her Deckload.

The Nova Scotia sch. Politia, bound from Bay of Islands, N. F., with a cargo of salt herring, arrived at Halifax, N. S., yesterday and reported encountering a heavy gale during which she lost her deckload, over 100 barrels of salt herring.

December 14

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Georgianna, via Boston.

Sch. Estelle S. Nunan, shore.

Sch. Catherine D. Enos, shore.

Sch. Seaconnet, shore.

Sch. Hortense, shore.

Sch. Ida M. Silva, shore.

Sch. Rita A. Viator, shore.

Sch. Ida F. Brooks, shore.

Sch. Reliance, shore.

Sch. Flora F. Sears, shore.

Boston.

Sch. Richard G. Nunan, 3000 haddock, 1400 cod, 1500 hake.

Sch. John M. Keene, 2000 haddock, 1000 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Stranger, 2700 haddock, 1500 cod.

Sch. Dorothy, 1500 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Shepherd King, 600 haddock, 600 cod, 6500 hake.

Sch. Sadie M. Nunan, 2500 haddock, 1200 cod, 4000 hake.

Sch. Carrie F. Roberts, 700 haddock, 500 cod, 2000 hake.

December 15

DOLEFUL ACCOUNTS.

Reports of Conditions at St. Pierre Not Encouraging.

A despatch from Washington yesterday says:

A report to the British foreign office gives a doleful account of the French colonies of St. Pierre and Miquelon and five lesser islets lying off the coast of Newfoundland. These possessions consist of rugged masses of rock with a thick coat of soil, and boast of a little vegetation. There is one safe harbor, St. Pierre, around which has been built the town of that name, the seat of government. Its population in 1903 was some 5400, out of a total of 6500 in the whole colony, but since that time, owing to the growing scarcity of codfish, the consequent decline of trade, and the higher cost of living, some 1000 persons have emigrated to Canada and the United States.

The British consul reports empty sheds, stores, shops and houses in various stages of disrepair and decay; fish-drying yards, care fully prepared with large stones for airing the cod, now choked with weeds, and the surrounding woodwork succumbing to wind and weather; landing stages gradually rotting and falling to pieces, and merchants liquidating and going away, while none come to replace them, as some of the usual signs of bad times now seem to be seen. Everything has to be imported in the way of merchandise, as the islands produce nothing, being used for the fish industry. The cod export, which amounted in 1898 to over \$3,000,000, dropped last year to less than one-half that sum. On an average they have 100 days of fog in a year in these islands.

December 17

HEAVY ICE IN ARMS.

Several Vessels Caught in Last Week's Freeze.

SITUATION IS NOW SERIOUS

Tug Potomac and Steamer Atlantic Bucking Heavy Floe.

The situation at Bay of Islands, N. F., at present is far from encouraging, as ice of considerable thickness has appeared in the arms and many of the vessels in Middle Arm were caught with their nets.

The first news was received here Thursday, coming from a reliable source, and stated that many of the vessels had been nipped and that the steamer Atlantic of the Atlantic Fisheries Co. of Lunenburg, N. S., was hard at work trying to free them.

Later despatches stated that the Humber had frozen over and that way down to Wood's island the ice was five inches in thickness.

While at work butting the ice, the Atlantic lost her propellor, but found it again and resumed her labors as soon as it was found.

Meanwhile, the Potomac, which had been to North Sydney, C. B., for coal and supplies, returned, and immediately began the work of trying to free the vessels and nets. Up to Saturday she was still at it and since then nothing has been heard from there.

To add to the ice troubles of the fleet, herring have not been plenty. No gulf ice has yet been reported, but even at that, with so much ice forming so quickly and heavy in the arms, the vessel owners here consider the situation serious and many have wired the captains in charge of their fleets to take no chances of being frozen in.

The matter of ice now will make much difference in securing cargoes of herring and its continuance or disappearance will make the difference between one of the best and a poor season, as the case may be.

It is hoped that the Potomac and Atlantic may be successful in their work in Middle Arm and that the crafts may be able to load before another heavy freeze sets in.

A telegram received here late Saturday evening, is probably the last word received from the fleet. It was brief, but meant considerable, "Everything frozen up. Ice will probably go out later."

Since then, messages sent the vessels there have been returned by the operator with the words, "cannot be delivered."

December 17

Steam Trawler Spray Has Another Small Trip.

The steam trawler Spray arrived at Boston yesterday with another small trip having 11,000 pounds of fresh fish. The craft met with an accident on Saturday, one of the flanges of the pump giving out, and was obliged to return to port. Repairs will be made as soon as possible.

Dec. 17

Pacific Halibut.

Several cars of western halibut at Boston this morning.

December 17

LOST HER CABLE.

Sch. Admiral Dewey at Halifax with a Few Halibut

Had Six Weeks of Worst Kind of Weather.

Another example of the terrible weather our vessels are encountering on the fishing banks was furnished Saturday by the arrival at Halifax, N. S., of the fresh halibuter sch. Admiral Dewey, Capt. James Bowie, of this port with but 6000 pounds of halibut to show for a six weeks beating and hanging about. By permission of the Canadian government the fare was sold there.

Capt. Bowie reported terrible weather and his small fare was not the least of his hard luck for he had lost his whole string of cable on Green Bank recently.

Capt. Bowie, in speaking of the weather, said it was about the worst he ever encountered and for the past 17 days it had been impossible to put a dory over the side.

The Dewey will probably secure new cable at Halifax and make another start.

December 17

PERFORATED SAILS.

Although the assertion recently made by an Italian sea captain that the power of sails was increased by their being perforated was ridiculed, it has just been proved that he was right. His theory was that the force of the wind cannot fairly take effect on an inflated sail because of the cushion of immovable air that fills up the hollow. To prevent the creation and presence of that cushion he pierced his sails with many holes, through which the wind blew, the balance of the air pressure striking against the canvas and exercising its full effect. Several experiments have been made on these lines, and the results are declared to have been eminently satisfactory, says the N. Y. Marine Journal.

December 17

Fresh Bait.

The torchers had 60 barrels of fresh herring Saturday, which is quite a large amount for so late in the season.

New Fish Company Organized.

A new fish company, the B. S. Webber Fish Co. has been organized here with a capital of \$1,000, 200 shares \$50 each, Directors, James S. Steele, president; Howard Steele, treasurer, and Benj. S. Webber.

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Walter P. Goulart, shore.
Sch. Galatea, shore.
Sch. Mary E. Silveira, shore.
Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.
Sch. Frances P. Mesquita, shore.
Sch. Hortense, shore.
Sch. Seaconnet, shore.
Sch. Etta Mildred, shore.
Sch. Mand F. Silva, shore.
Sch. Lafayette, shore.
Sch. Annie and Jennie, shore.
Sch. Henry M. Stanley, Bay of Islands,
N. F., 1250 bbls. salt herring.

Boston.

Sch. Valentina, 8000 pollock.
Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, 4000 haddock,
500 cod, 4000 hake.
Sch. Margaret Dillon, 2500 haddock, 1000
cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Henrietta G. Martin, 6500 haddock,
700 cod, 800 hake.
Sch. Actor, 1500 haddock, 4000 cod, 2000
hake.
Sch. Terra Nova, 15,000 haddock, 7000 cod,
2000 hake.
Haddock \$4.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$4;
market cod, \$2 to \$4; hake, \$2 to \$3.25;
pollock, \$3.50.

December 15