February 27.

FIRST ALEWIVES.

Sandy Bay Fish Company Had One Barrel Come Yesterday.

The first alewives of the season arrived at Rockport yesterday for the Sandy Bay Fish Company. There was but one barrel and it was eagerly sought by the boat fishermen.

February 27.

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Hortense, shore.
Sch. A. C. Newhall, shore.

Todavs Fish Market.

Board of Trade fresh fish prices: large western cod, $2.50; medium do., $1.62 1-2; large eastern cod, $2.25; medium do., $1.50; snapper do., 60c; cusk, $1.62 1-2; snapper do., 50c; haddock, $1.10; hake, $1.10; pol lock, $1.

Board of Trade salt fish prices: Large Georges handline cod, $4.75; medium do., $3.75; salt haddock, $2; salt pollock, $2; salt hake, $2; salt cusk, $2.50.

Bank halibut, 10 1-2 cts. per lb. for white and 9 cts. for gray.

Georges handliner halibut, 14 cts. per lb. for white and 10 cts. for gray.

Boston.

Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 7000 haddock, 300 cod, 2000 hake, 200 cusk.

Sch. Mooanam, 23,000 haddock, 4000 cod.

Sch. Dorothy, 8000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake, 1000 cusk.

Sch. J. F. McMorrow, 1300 cod.

Sch. Mettacomet, 9000 cod,

Sch. Olive F. Hutchins, 9000 haddoek, 500 cod, 2000 hake, 500 cusk.

Sch. Manomet, 6000 haddock, 500 cod.

Haddock, $6.25 to $6.80 per cwt.; large cod, $5 to $5.80; market cod, $3 to $4; hake, $4 to $7; cusk, $4.50; pollock, $6.

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SHELLS THAT SWIM.

These Peculiar Fish Are Mostly Confined to Tropical Seas.

The idea of shells being found anywhere else except upon the seabeach or in river beds is a little startling. Yet the naturalist who pursues his work from a ship in midocean can and does collect shells by the thousand at every dip of his net or bucket.

Swimming shellfish are mostly confined to tropical seas. The most familiar is the nautilus, which is, however, not a shellfish at all, but a near relation of the cuttlefish; also it is only seen on the surface at a certain time of the year. The real ocean shellfish are mostly very small. In the Indian ocean they may be seen by millions. One which bears the appalling name of Cavolinia trispinosa has the odd peculiarity of coming to the surface at 6 sharp every evening. Another, the Cleodora tridentata, rises at 7.

Frail as these tiny shellfish are, no storm ever injures them. They all possess the peculiar power of being able at will to sink a few feet below the surface of the sea, and there they remain when gales blow, perfectly safe, and rise again when the weather improves.

The largest of these ocean swimmers is about three inches in length. Almost all are most brilliant in color and their shells far frailer and more glossy than those found upon the seabeach.

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Good Stocks.

Sch. Frances Whalen, Capt. Larry Norris, stocked $2000 on her haddock on her trip at T wharf yesterday, making $4600 for this craft in her two last trips.

Sch. Fame, Capt. Freeman Mason, stocked $1900 as the result of her haddock trip landed Tuesday.

Sch. George E. Lane, Jr., Capt. John Watson, engaged in codfishing, off the "Glass Works," stocked $1500 on her recent fine trip, giving her the splendid stock of $14,000 thus far this season.

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NET AND TWINE CO.'S SALE.

How the Boston Tribune Views Contemplated Transfer.

The Boston Tribune, Charles F. King's financial paper, under the head of "Let Us Wait and See," has the following to say editorially this morning regarding the proposed sale of the Gloucester Net and Twine Company to the Linen Thread Company of New York:

"Gloucester people are just now very much interested in the announcement that the Gloucester Net and Twine Company has been sold to the Linen Thread Company, of New York, for $250,000, or at the rate of $200 per share. This Linen Thread Company, as is known to the elect, is commonly called the thread trust, and the acquisition of the Gloucester plant makes it an almost absolute monopoly of the business in this country, only one small independent concern being left to dispute its tremendous power.

"The purchase of the Gloucester concern is the outcome of a fight of about two years. The fish city men declare that their little company gave the big monopoly a bad bruising and that, consequently, the giant has at last accepted their terms of $200 per share, and has swallowed the business with that easy grace and lack of noise that marks the gustatory-financial feats of most of the monopolistic aggregations.

"We refer to this particular case for the purpose of bringing out two points: first, that a practical monopoly is never satisfied until it has gathered into its own embrace every possible opponent that could be of any harm to it; secondly, that when these 'absorptions,' as they are politely called, are made, it is very often to the ultimate destruction of the thing swallowed. In our honest opinion, Gloucester will find out the truth of this before many years.

"But not now is this feeling entertained, at least not by the men who have just sold their property to the thread trust. We note that the treasurer and manager of the Gloucester Net and Twine Company is decidedly optimistic, and declares that 'the passing of the Gloucester Net and Twine Company from the control of local people will not be any detriment to Gloucester. It is agreed, that the plant shall be kept in operation as it is now, and shall remain a Gloucester industry.'

"Fair words and smooth phrases only. No monstrous aggregation ever took possession of a smaller competitor without presenting the same assurances. But dismantled factories and discharged workmen in all parts of the United States and particularly here in New Engalnd show the utter unreliability of their promises in this respect.

"If it shall suit the convenience of the thread trust to keep the Gloucester plant going—and it may, because of its propinquity to the fishing industry—the factory will run on. If it shall be seen that one one-hundredth part of one per cent. on the company's capitalization can be saved by dismantling this plant, the thing will be done without a moment's hesitation and with cold-blooded disregard for whatever assurances may have been made to the contrary. It is the way of the trade octopus, and we cannot change its nature.

"We hope, for the sake of Gloucester, that her faith will not be misplaced, but we have mighty little confidence in the future of her just swallowed net and twine company."

February 28.

OTTER TRAWLING IN THE SALT BANK FISHERY.

The news that a fleet of 30 French steamers, all equipped for otter trawling, will be seen on the Grand Bank this coming season comes from a reliable source and is of such an important nature as to cause all interested in the salt bank codfishery, the largest single branch of fishing, to take notice and wonder what will be the outcome of the departure.

The matter is a serious one and affects not only the Americans, but all other nations or colonies having fleets in this fishery and operating on the Grand Bank and adjacent banks. It concerns all, from the vessel owners down to the men who man the vessels of the present fleets.

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On this side of the water, it must be admitted that there is a cordial dislike to steam trawlers, particularly those fitted with the beam or other trawls. This may be ascribed to sentiment, but it is not so. Vessel owners see, in their advanced use, a much smaller return on their property now invested, while fishermen see the approach of the end of big stocks and shares and the introduction of a system of going on wages, none too large at best, and below what they know they can make going on shares. It destroys the element of luck and chances in which all fishermen and many owners believe to a greater or less extent.

Far-seeing men, men connected all their lives with the fisheries, either as fishermen, masters, owners or in scientific fish research, see another side to the question, the most important side, which is, the effect of a big fleet of these grab-alls on the fish life and movements of fish on these favorite fishing spots. Many claim, and not without reason, it is believed, that so many of these otter trawlers sweeping over these fishing grounds would in time not only make the grounds non-productive, but would have the effect of turning fish to seek other grounds where their whereabouts may not be rediscovered for years.

It is known that the one experiment of this kind on this side of the water, on her various trips the past year, has many times brought large quantities of immature fishes of little value in that state, but most valuable when grown. It is known also that this experiment drags the bottom thoroughly, taking in everything in its path. This being undoubtedly so, there is no telling how much fish life is destroyed, which, if its path were crossed only by hooks and lines, would live on to maturity before being caught. In other words, while the full destructiveness of this otter trawl fishing by a big fleet on one ground cannot be estimated, there being no actual statistics at hand on the subject, it can in some degree be imagined. Another point to be considered is that of possible friction. With the hundreds of vessels handlining and trawling on these banks frequented by the salt fishermen, just figure in these 30 steam draggers. Where the trawlers and handliners are, there they are sure to be also, for the former will not stay where the fish are not.

Now just imagine the miles and miles of trawls that will be set, covering great areas, and these otter trawlers trying to drag their net in about them. The result can in many cases be imagined. It is reasonable to suppose that even by accident, much trawl gear will be swept over, broken out and lost wherever the otter trawl comes in contact with it and there is no doubt that there will be many times when these submarine collisions of fishing gear will occur.

The question will then come, how long will the sailing trawlers stand for it? It would seem that difficulties are sure to follow, for there are laws regarding the destruction of fishing gear that are very stringent and carry heavy penalties for the guilty one.

We do not wish to be regarded as borrowing trouble in regard to this matter, for we are not so disposed. We are simply pointing out some incidents that have happened some conditions that do exist and some difficulties that may have to be met. We believe, however, that the operations of this big French otter trawling steamers, with its accompanying success or failure, will be watched with more keen interest than any change yet made in the methods of fishing on this side of the Atlantic.

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Good Stock.

Sch. Lucania, Capt. Martin L. Welch, stocked $2170 as the result of her recent haddock trip, the crew sharing $49 clear.

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HOME GROUNDS LEAD.

Interesting Facts from Bureau of Fisheries Statistics.

Total Landings at Gloucester and Boston for Year 1906.

The U. S. Bureau of Fisheries has published a statement of the quantities and values of certain fishery products landed at this port and Boston by American fishing vessels of over five tons register for the year 1906.

For this port the amount was 80,707,840 pounds, valued at $1,955,038, of which 46,907,324 pounds were fresh and valued at $887,957 and 33,800,516 pounds were salted and valued at $1,067,081.

At Boston, 89,693,370 pounds were landed, valued at $2,117,324, of which 89,610,170 pounds were fresh and valued at $2,107,665 and 83,200 pounds were salted and valued at $9659.

These figures include only the catches of American fishing vessels over five tons, and landed by these same crafts, and does not include the big catch of our little shore boats. Neither does it include the several millions of pounds of cured fish landed here from Provincetown and Maine ports, or the many cargoes of salt and frozen herring landed here in British bottoms. The figures serve to give just what American fishing vessels catch and land themselves at these two ports.

By far the most interesting part of the report, which is comprised of very complete tables of the catch of each kind of fish, by banks and months, is a table showing the relative catch on the grounds west and east of the 66th parallel of longitude, this parallel cutting Seal Island, N. S., the grounds to the westward being the "home" grounds and right close to the home market, while those to the eastward are generally known as the Nova Scotia and Newfoundland banks.

The charge has often been made, and as often refuted, that the fishery of Gloucester and Boston, and in fact all New England, was dependent on the bait supply of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, as the banks were nearer to those counties and the most of the fishing of our vessels was done on them. How incorrect this charge is can be seen from the following correct figures:

During 1906 the number of fares brought to Gloucester and Boston and caught to the eastward of the 66th parallel, was 464. For the same year, the number of fares caught to the westward of the same line and landed at the same ports was 6442.

It would seem from the above comparative trip figures of fish caught on each side of the 66th parallel that no farther refutation of the charge was needed, but let us go a little farther and get all the facts.

The same government tables show that for 1906 the amount of fish caught by American vessels during 1906 east of the 66th parallel and landed at Boston and Gloucester were 41,170,552 pounds, while the amount taken to the westward of that line by American vessels and landed at the same ports during the same time was 129,230,658 pounds.

Although there was but little difference in the total receipts at Boston and Gloucester, there were 4505 arrivals at the former place during 1906, against 2401 at this port during the same time.

Nobody denies the advantages of the present modus vivendi and license arrangement with Canada, both to ourselves and the Nova Scotia and Cape Breton folks, but these figures show conclusively what a great preponderance of the Boston and Gloucester fish receipts are caught on home banks, but a short run from the home ports.

Remember that the figures given are only for fish landed at this port and at Boston. Should the total of the Maine fisheries, all of which, practically, is caught on the home banks, he added to that of Boston and Gloucester, the difference in the grand totals would be even much greater.

February 28.

MUCH INTEREST SHOWN.

Hearing on Using Nets and Seines in Buzzard's Bay.

Mayor MacDonald Spoke and Master Mariners Attended.

The room of the legislative committee on fisheries and game was packed to overflowing yesterday at the hearing on senate bill No. 157, to permit the use of nets and seines in the waters of Buzzards Bay, from which they have been excluded for some 20 years.

In all the great number present, only two, a couple of lawyers, representing the interests of the summer residents on the shores of the bay, appeared to oppose the bill. All the rest, including large delegations from Fall River, New Bedford, Hyannis, Provincetown and other points on Cape Cod and this city, were there to speak in favor of the bill.

The committee remained in session until 1.30 o'clock, and so great was the number wishing to be heard that the hearing was adjourned until next Wednesday, when the committee will again be in session.

At the next session the delegation from the Master Mariners Association of this city, who were present but prevented from testifying because of lack of time, will be heard. The association, at a special meeting a few days ago, voted unanimously to endorse the bill.

The delegation from the Master Mariner Association comprised President Capt. John W. McFarland and Capts. Charles H. Harty, Jerry Cook, Chester B. Tallman, Charles Martin, George H. Peeples, Augustus G. Hall, Reuben Cameron, Thomas Lewis, James H. Stapleton, Peter Grant, Norman A. Ross, Charles Doucette and Solomon A. Rowe.

Mr. E. Frank Locke, formerly of this city, now superintendent of the United States fish hatchery at Woods Hole, was one of those to testify.

Among others who were heard was Mayor MacDonald, who spoke as follows:

"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee:—As my time is limited, I simply wish to state that I represent the largest fishing port in the United States if not in the world; consequently, our population is composed of a great many fishermen who must have bait in order to enable them to earn a livelihood. The scarcity of bait means loss of time and loss of time means a great financial loss to these hardy men which they can illy afford to lose. I appeal to you, gentlemen, in behalf of the citizens of Gloucester to favor this proposed legislation because I believe it to be fair and honest and allows not only the fishermen of Gloucester the rights which God intended they should have, but everybody in this free country of ours. Aside from what I represent, let me say to you, gentlemen, God forbid that I should ever raise my voice or hand in opposition to legislation of this nature which means so much to the poor people of this country."

At the conclusion of Mayor MacDonald's remarks, a rising vote was called for all those present who favored the legislation and nearly every one stood up.

February 28.

INTERESTED IN DOGFISH

New Hampshire Legislator Seeking Information on Pests.

Ex-Representative Edwin C. McIntire has received a letter from Representative Howell Lamprey of Portsmouth, N. H., asking that the former forward to him what resolutions there are in the Massachusetts legislature in regard to the extermination of dogfish. Mr. Lamprey said that he was anxious to have something similar presented to its legislature, and Mr. McIntire promptly sent the desired information.

On the New Hampshire shore there is a coast line of about ten miles, and at the various points there are a large number of dory fishermen who suffer as the result of the dogfish pest.

February 28.

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Maud F. Silva, shore.
Sch. Pythian, shore.
Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, shore.
Sch. Mooanam, via Boston.
Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore.
Sch. Thomas Brundage, shore.
Sch. Selma, shore.
Sch. Catherine D. Enos, shore.
Sch. Manomet, shore.
Sch. Arcadia, returned.

Todavs Fish Market.

Board of Trade fresh fish prices: large western cod, $2.50; medium do., $1.62 1-2; large eastern cod, $2.25; medium do., $1.50; snapper do., 60c; cusk, $1.62 1-2; snapper do., 50c; haddock, $1.10; hake, $1.10; pollock, $1.

Board of Trade salt fish prices: Large Georges handline cod, $4.75; medium do., $3.75; salt haddock, $2; salt pollock, $2; salt hake, $2; salt cusk, $2.50.

Bank halibut, 10 1-2 cts. per lb. for white and 9 cts. for gray.

Georges handliner halibut, 14 cts. per lb. for white and 10 cts. for gray.

Boston.

Sch. Frances Whalen, 5000 haddock, 6000 cod, 28,000 hake, 14,000 cusk.

Sch. Mary A. Whalen, 40,000 haddock, 12,000 cod, 6000 hake, 12,000 cusk.

Sch. Morning Star, 45,000 haddock.

Sch. Emily Sears, 2500 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Selma, 30,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 cusk.

Sch. Catherine G. Howard, 40,000 haddock, 5000 cod.

Sch. Sabine, 1500 cod, 700 halibut.

Sch. Ida M. Silva, 8000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. John M. McKeen, 10,000 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. M. Madeleine, 17,000 cod.

Sch. Genesta, 2000 haddock.

Sch. Harmony, 25,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 5000 hake, 2000 cusk, 1500 halibut.

Sch. Ellen C. Burke, 18,000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Nokomis, 12,000 cod.

Sch. Viking, 6000 haddock.

Sch. Florida, 14,000 cod.

Sch. Juniata, 13,000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Emerald, 600 haddock, 600 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Catherine G. Burke, 55,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Rebecca, 2000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Shepherd King, 11,000 haddock, 500 cod, 4000 hake.

Sch. Etta Mildred, 25,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Yankee, 14,000 cod.

Sch. Joseph H. Cromwell, 6000 haddock.

Sch. Flavilla, 6000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Thomas Brundage, 10,000 haddock.

Sch. Teresa and Alice, 3000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Emily Cooney, 4000 haddock.

Haddock, $2.50 to $5; large cod, $5 to $6; market cod, $4 to $5; hake, $4.50.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Helen F. Whitten was at Canso, N. S., Monday.

March 1.

GIANT LUMPFISH.

Largest Ever Seen Brought to T Wharf Yesterday.

The largest lumpfish ever known to hav been taken was brought to T wharf, Boston, yesterday by sch. Priscilla, which had been fishing off Plymouth. It weighed 15 pounds, was two feet long and 18 inches across. It was sold as a curiosity, not being edible.

March 1.

Halibut Sale.

The fare of sch Norman Fisher sold to Gardner & Parsons at 12 cents per pound for white and 10 cents for gray.