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To be sure, it is admitted on all sides that the season is late because of the cold weather, the stormy and rainy days and the great amount of ice around Cape Breton, which makes the Cape Shore weather at present almost like what it is in mid-winter. Many believe that this cold weather and consequently very cold water is keeping the mackerel back, and that later they will show as usual, but this of course does not satisfy about 50 skippers and 900 men, who in going into harbors along the Cape Shore cold and tired, seeing no fish, hear of the good fortunes of the vessels which remained out south.

They figure that although it is one of the most backward of springs, the mackerel showed out south earlier than ever before, with but very few exceptions, and then finding the water cold, and the weather wintery, stayed there and made good fishing, yes, big fishing. Then they argue, why should they not have shown on the Cape Shore early, or in time, at least, as weather conditions were about the same there as they were out south when they first showed there?

Of course there are many who believe that if the vessels stick to the Cape Shore they will yet make big hauls, for they really believe that the fish are late and will strike in later in abundance, and then it will take but a couple of days or so for the vessels on the fish to fill up.

There is no certainty that the fleet are leaving down there, but it is certain that most of the fleet has put about and come well to the westward, and that many, including some of the leading skippers, are thinking of coming this way and getting out south again.

A telegram yesterday to a Times representative, from one of the leading skippers, dated at Shelburne, N. S., reads:

"What prospects out south? Nothing loing here and don't look as if there would be."

To the initiated this message tells its own story.

Another telegram was also received yesterday by a Times representative, also dated at Shelburne, N. S., and from a skipper than whom no smarter or more successful mackerel catcher ever sailed. The despatch read, "Wire news and prospects home and out south. No fish here yet. Forty sail came to the westward yesterday."

These messages certainly show that some of the fleet are getting uneasy and think so poorly of the prospect of a catch on the Cape Shore that if there is anything doing to the southward, they are ready to leave down here and drive her for where the fleet are on fish, off Block Island and farther to the southward.

Last year's Cape Shore season was a big failure, only about 4000 barrels being brought home, but to have the whole fleet come without seeing or catching a fish would be even worse.

That this will happen is by no means certain, indeed, it is safe to say that many of the fleet will stay on the Cape Shore for a long time yet, and it is hoped that soon we may hear that the fleet have struck fish there and that none had to leave to go to the southward.

Beside the telegrams received by the Times representative yesterday, two vessel owners also received messages from some of their seining skippers down on the Cape Shore, one being sent from Liverpool, N. S., and the other from Shelburne, N. S.

A Liverpool, England, paper of May 14, in speaking of the mackerel fishery on the coast of Ireland, says that for the week ending that date, the report from the fishing stations on the Irish coast was that no fish had been landed to speak of and that the weather, most of the time, had been unfavorable. The article also said that even when the weather had been fine and the sea smooth hardly any fish had been seen.

Two hundred barrels of fresh mackerel were received at Boston yesterday from Newport.

Regarding the loss of the nets by some of the netters out south, as was reported in yesterday's Times, a special to the Times today states that others of the fleet would probably have lost theirs also but for the fact that some did not set at all, and others hauled soon after midnight, early Sunday morning, before the gale came on heavy.

The fare of sch. Lillian which was landed at Newport Sunday was, as was surmised in the Times yesterday, caught well to the southward. A special to the Times from Newport states that the medium fish of the fare were taken in the daytime, 100 miles southeast from New York. The fish were a different run from any seen yet this year, going about 175 count to an iced barrel, and there were some "blinks" mixed in with them. The Lillian stocked \$2370 on the trip, the medium fish selling at 8 1-2 cents each and the large ones at 15 cents each. Capt. Cahoon as well as the other skippers

at Newport yesterday, considers the prospect good out that way.

The following netters are at New York today:

Sloop Maxwell, 2300 large fresh mackerel.
Sloop Golden Eagle, 250 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. F. W. Homans, 600 large fresh mackerel.

The Homans got her fish off Fire Island, being the first of the fleet to strike mackerel as near New York as this.

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WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

Has Boston a \$5,000,000 Fish Trust or Not?

One Paper Declares it Began Business Saturday.

Is the much talked of Boston \$5,000,000 fresh fish trust or combine a reality or is it being seriously considered? One Boston paper says:

"According to the accepted report current on T wharf the combination of firms so long talked of went into effect Saturday morning. The combination includes about half the corporation firms on the wharf, which, for a time at least, will do business under one management. The greatest secrecy is maintained by the firms that are said to have combined, and none of the members seen would acknowledge being in the combination."

The Boston Post this morning, in speaking of the possibility of the combine, publishes an interview with C. J. Whitman of the firm of C. J. Whitman & Co.:

"There has been no combination of fishing firms in Boston yet. I will say that there is something doing in that direction, but the deal has not been consummated. Further than that I have nothing whatever to say."

The statement of Mr. Whitman disposes of the rumor that the long-talked-of "fish trust" became a reality Saturday morning. But it also conveys the impression that the combine will be a reality in the near future.

Rumors of a fish trust became rife last November. The strenuous opposition to the scheme by skippers and retail dealers is believed to have caused a postponement of the combination in order that the public might partially forget it.

The trust is viewed with the greatest aversion by captains and crews of vessels and by retail dealers, it is said. At present all crews share in the profits of the trips, and a wise skipper in the fresh fish fleet can often make great profits for himself and men by keeping close watch of the market and timing his arrival when fresh fish are scarce and prices high.

Crews fear that the trust will become so powerful that it can make an arbitrary price for fish, no matter what the demand may be, and thus do away with the competition that often rages at T wharf.

A recent report had it that some Gloucester concerns were in the combine, but after interviews with many of them, the Times believes it is safe in saying that this is not so.

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LOST LOTS OF NETS.

Many Netters Stack Up Against Pretty Hard Luck

Two Also Burst Their Foresails During Hard Weather.

The little netters south have been up against some mighty hard weather and not a few of them have suffered severe losses. A telegram to the Times this forenoon states that of the fleet at Fulton market today, no less than seven have met with mishaps.

They had very bad weather yesterday morning and five of them were, in consequence, unable to haul only a few of their nets, but were obliged to run for harbor, leaving them out and will probably never see them again.

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Sch. Massasoit lost 60 nets, sch. Stranger left 127 nets out, sch. Priscilla was 90 nets short, sch. A. C. Newhall planted 67 nets that she will probably never see again and sch. George E. Hagan lost 72 nets.

Beside these accidents, two others of the fleet, sch. Massasoit and sch. Florida, report carrying away their foresails. By this it can be seen that they must have struck some hard weather and pretty rough weather.

Sch. Priscilla arrived at New York this forenoon with 2500 large fresh mackerel. The following netters were at New Bedford Sunday:

Sloop Reliance, 144 large fresh mackerel.
Steamer Vigilant, 300 large fresh mackerel.
Sloop Magnolia, 500 large fresh mackerel.
Steamer Angliena, 102 large fresh mackerel.

Sloop Crescent, 200 large fresh mackerel.
Sloop Lizzie Foster, 500 large fresh mackerel.

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DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Volant, Rips, 35,000 lbs. salt cod.
Sch. Triton, shore, 50,000 fresh pollock.

Today's Fish Market.

Board of Trade fresh fish prices: large western cod, \$2.37 1-2; medium do., \$1.62 1-2; large eastern cod, \$2.12 1-2; 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 headline cod, \$4.75; medium do., \$3.75; salt haddock, \$2; salt pollock, \$2; salt hake, \$2; salt cusk, \$2.50.

Bank halibut, 11 cts. per lb. for white and 8 cts. or gray.

Market price large western cod to split, \$2.75 per cwt., medium do., \$1.80.

Large eastern cod, \$2.50, medium do., \$1.75

Market price fresh large Rips cod, \$2.75 per cwt., medium do., \$1.80.

Market price, salt bank cod, \$4 per cwt. for large and \$3.25 for medium.

Market price salt Rips cod, \$4.50 per cwt. for large, \$3.50 for market, \$2.50 for snappers and \$2 for shack.

Fresh round pollock, 90c per cwt.
Market price fresh hake, \$1.40 per cwt.

Large fresh mackerel, 19 cts. each.
Salt medium mackerel, \$13 per bbl.

Salt tinkers, \$5 per bbl.
Market price fresh cusk, \$1.75 per cwt.

Cox's ledge dory headline salt cod, \$4.75 per cwt. for large and \$3.75 for mediums

Dressed fresh pollock, \$1.00 per cwt.

Boston.

Sch. Mattakesett, 7000 haddock, 7000 cod.
Steamer Spray, 15,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 500 hake, 500 halibut.

Sloop Olivia Sears, 500 haddock, 1500 cod.
Haddock, \$5 per cwt.; large cod \$6; market cod, \$2.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Harvard was at Portland on Sunday for bait.

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Good Stock.

Sch. Richard J. Nunan, Capt. Robert Wilde, stocked \$1800 as the result of her nine days haking trip on the Maine coast. This is making money pretty fast for a craft that is always figured as one of the market boats.

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SUNDAY SALT WATER FISHING

Amendment Making It Legal Added to Proposed Law.

Fourteen amendments were offered to the Katzmann Sunday measure in the house of representatives Monday when it came up in the engrossment stage. Six of the amendments were adopted and one was defeated. The house adjourned in the midst of discussion.

The amendments added Monday were:
To allow the sale of fruit by common victuallers, newsdealers, druggists.
To allow fishing in salt water.
To allow the making of food by bakers.
To allow band concerts in the Metropolitan park reservations.

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To allow transportation to market and loading and unloading of farm products.
 To allow necessary work in care and repair of power plants in factories.

In regard to the fishing in salt water, Representative Nichols of Boston declared it an absurd inconsistency to allow the digging of clams, perhaps for bait, but to prohibit fishing. He declared that no one was disturbed by fishing, it was generally practised throughout the state on Sunday, and that a law which was not enforced and not supported by public sentiment had better be taken from the books.

The amendment allowing the sale of photographic supplies was defeated.
 The amendment offered yesterday to allow fresh water Sunday fishing was defeated.
 Representative Parker of Rockport moved to amend so as to allow the state militia to use its rifle ranges, but this was rejected.
 All Sunday entertainments not of a classical or patriotic nature are forbidden by an amendment passed yesterday afternoon.
 The bill as amended was ordered to a third reading.

The general belief at the state house is that the senate will further amend the bill and that the final result will be a committee of conference, which in the closing days of the session next week will either report a compromise bill which will be adopted by both branches, or else, failing to agree, the whole subject matter of amendment of the present Sunday laws will fall between the two houses.

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DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

- Sch. W. W. Sennett, shore, 25,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Sch. Pinta, south, seining.
- Sch. Reliance, shore, 2000 lbs. fresh pollock.
- Sch. Mary Emerson, shore, 500 lbs. fresh pollock.

Today's Fish Market.

Board of Trade fresh fish prices: large western cod, \$2.37 1-2; medium do., \$1.62 1-2; large eastern cod, \$2.12 1-2; 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, 11 cts. per lb. for white and 8 cts. or gray.

Market price large western cod to split, \$2.75 per cwt., medium do., \$1.80.

Large eastern cod, \$2.50, medium do., \$1.75.

Market price fresh large Rips cod, \$2.75 per cwt., medium do., \$1.80.

Market price, salt bank cod, \$4 per cwt. for large and \$3.25 for medium.

Market price salt Rips cod, \$4.50 per cwt. for large, \$3.50 for market, \$2.50 for snappers and \$2 for shack.

Fresh round pollock, 90c per cwt.

Market price fresh hake, \$1.40 per cwt.

Large fresh mackerel, 19 cts. each.

Salt medium mackerel, \$13 per bbl.

Salt tinkers, \$5 per bbl.

Market price fresh cusk, \$1.75 per cwt.

Cox's ledge dory handline salt cod, \$4.75 per cwt. for large and \$3.75 for mediums.

Dressed fresh pollock, \$1.00 per cwt.

Boston

- Sch. Morning Star, 300 haddock, 1200 cod.
 - Sch. Gov. Russell, 8000 haddock, 22,000 cod, 300 hake, 1000 pollock.
 - Sch. Olympia, 300 haddock, 600 cod, 100 hake.
- Haddock, \$6 per cwt.; large cod, \$6; market cod, \$3; hake, \$2; pollock, \$3.

Mackerel Notes.

Two traps at Yarmouth, N. S., took 35 barrels of mackerel on Monday. This is the first haul of any account on the Cape Shore this season. The traps around Yarmouth and Prospect are reported making hauls daily now.

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Halibut Sale.

The fare of sch. Margaret sold to the American Halibut Co. at 10 1-4 cents per pound for white and 7 cents for gray.

STORM PLAYED HAVOC.

Caused Large Damage Among Lobster Fishermen.

Estimated That 1500 Pots Are Lost Off Cape Ann.

The storms of this week has caused widespread damage among the lobstermen of Cape Ann, in fact there has not been such a severe loss for many years. It is estimated that at least 1500 lobster pots have been lost, being valued on an average of \$2 or more each.

As an illustration of the disaster wrought by the storm, Ex-Water Commissioner Melvin Parsons put out 62 new pots the latter part of the week off Salt Island, and he said this morning that he did not expect to see any of them again. Another party lost 35 pots off Brace's Cove, Eastern Point.

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FRENCH ARE LEAVING.

Newfoundland Bait Act Claimed Injurious to Miquelon.

A despatch from St. John's, N. F., yesterday says:

British Consul Woodhouse of Miquelon, who has been promoted to the consulate at the Faroe islands, reports the industrial outlook at St. Pierre is dark, due largely to the Newfoundland bait act which imposes many hardships on the French fishermen. The imports at St. Pierre have declined from \$1,700,000 in 1902 to \$1,081,000 in 1903, and the French fishing fleet of 208 vessels five years ago now consists of but 75 craft. More than 10,000 inhabitants of the French islands have emigrated to Canada and France.

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FIRST FROM THE GULF.

Sch. Margaret Secures Halibut Fare on Labrador Coast.

Sch. Margaret, Capt. Samuel Colson, arrived here this morning from a fresh halibut fare, with a fine trip, 30,000 pounds of halibut and 14,000 pounds of salt cod. The vessel fished on Whittle bank in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, over against Canadian Labrador, and is the first American craft to fish in the gulf this season. She was also the first vessel to bait at the Magdalens, being considerably ahead of the rest of the fleet by reason of going there by way of Channel, N. E.

Capt. Colson found good fishing, but saw only one vessel, sch. Harry A. Nickerson of this port.

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MANY DEALERS INTERESTED.

But Fish Trust Plans Not Yet Made Public.

Plans for the organization of a fish combine in Boston have so far progressed that about half of the dealers in the vicinity of the water frontage are interested in the project. Thus far none of the wholesalers on Atlantic avenue has taken hold of the matter seriously.

Skippers of the fleet that supplies the Boston market are not wholly in sympathy with the movement, their argument being that the combination, if effected as outlined, will be apt to strangle competition and keep prices down.

It is not definitely stated when the promoters of the trust will come into the open with their plans in relation to the consolidation.

VERY SERIOUS COMPLICATION.

Sch. Alert Warned Off by Magdalen Island Officials

SEIZURE WAS THREATENED.

if Capt. Malloch Went Ahead with Preparations To Fish.

Apparently there is no end to fishery troubles and complications and when everything appears quiet and efforts are being made to settle all existing difficulties, a new trouble pops up.

The latest comes from the Magdalen Islands, where, according to a North Sydney, C. B., despatch, Capt. Almon D. Malloch of the fishing sch. Alert of Boston has been warned from the coast and threatened with seizure if he fished on the Magdalen Islands shores.

The Alert, which was formerly the famous yacht of that time, was bought this spring by Capt. Malloch and fitted for fishing. The skipper decided not to go seining, but fitted his vessel for a herring trip to the Magdalen Islands. It is understood to have been his intention to catch his own fish and to that end carried a full equipment of traps, nets and seines beside a seineboat and a large and powerful gasoline launch.

On arriving there herring were found in plenty and preparations were at once made for fishing, so Capt. Malloch at once began to make preparations for lowering his traps. No sooner were her actions noticed than the authorities warned Capt. Malloch his vessel would be seized if he persisted in what the officials claimed was a contravention of the treaty.

The captain remonstrated but to no avail, and when he endeavored to reach his owners in Boston he discovered that the cable was broken. His only course was to proceed to North Sydney, arriving there Tuesday night.

Yesterday several messages were sent to the United States customs officials and Capt. Malloch says he will demand redress of what he maintains was a direct and flagrant violation of the treaty governing shore fishing. He says this is the first time an American fishing vessel has been deprived of this right and he claims the act of the customs authorities at the Magdalens was a direct breach of international law.

The North Sydney despatch terms the act of the Magdalen Islands customs officials as one that will be denounced as an act that will end in international difficulties.

Never before have the rights of Americans to take fish at the Magdalens under the treaty of 1818 been questioned, and those who have made a study of the treaty and the rights given American vessels under its provisions are surprised at the act of the Magdalen Islands officials, claiming there is no ground or precedent for the action.

The matter has already been brought to the attention of the authorities at Washington and future developments will be eagerly watched, as if the Magdalen Islands officials persist in their stand not to allow fishing there by American vessels, the matter will assume a very serious aspect indeed.

While coming up North Sydney, C. B. harbor, the Alert ran into some floating ice and carried away her bobstay.

For some time it has been felt in certain quarters that a vessel going to the Magdalens equipped as is sch. Alert, to catch all her own herring, would meet with trouble at the hands of customs officials there, who have the greatest animosity toward any method of securing fish which lessens the employment of their native fishermen and boats.

It is also known that on this subject there is a wide divergence of opinion between the Magdalen customs officials and the officers of the Canadian cruisers of the fisheries protection service, who have told some of our skippers that they have met, bound there and fitted with a seine to catch their own fish, that they had a right so to do and could not be interfered with or molested.