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PORTLAND PRICES DROPPED

Halibut Sold Yesterday Below Gloucester Prices.

Halibut prices at Portland took a sudden and unexpected drop Thursday and Friday, and the vessels which ran there to market were forced to face a cut which was anything but relished by the skippers and crews.

The first of the week, halibut fares sold there at 14 cents per pound for white and 11 cents for gray for the first fare, the second receiving 12 1-2 cents per pound right through. The next day a fare sold for 14 for white and 12 for gray, and when the Margaret got there Thursday, the best offer she got was 11 cents for white and 9 cents for gray, a sudden and unexpected drop of three cents all round. Then sch. Colonial which arrived there yesterday could not even get the offer made the Margaret and was forced to sell at 10 cents for white and 8 cents for gray.

At this port, at the same time the American Halibut Company bought the 3000 pound fare of sch. Marsala for 17 cents per pound for white and 14 1-2 cents per pound for gray and the officials of both halibut concerns here agree that had a good sizable trip been here yesterday morning, it would have easily have brought 12 cents for white and 10 cents for gray.

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Has Cargo of Salted Clams.

Sch. Lillian, from Sargentville, Me., for this port, was at Portland yesterday. She is bringing a load of salted clams.

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POLLOCK FLEET AGAIN FIND FISH.

From the latest reports from the Maine coast it would seem that the pollock fleet had located the fish off Boothbay. A telephone message from there Saturday afternoon stated that five of the fleet were in and had taken from 10,000 to 15,000 pounds each.

Another message which was received yesterday from Portland stated that pollock had struck solid off Boothbay and the Portland Cold Storage Co., had word from Boothbay that several of the vessels off there had done well, some of the smaller crafts taking from 25,000 to 30,000 pounds.

Some of the crafts which have come home from the eastward seem to think that the outlook for good pollock fishing down that way is anything but good, but it is thought, in the face of the above reports, that they must have come away before the pollock struck.

Five of the pollock seining fleet were reported at Boothbay Harbor Saturday night and Sunday, with from 5000 to 10,000 pounds each of pollock.

Sch. Elmer E. Gray, Capt. Solomon Jacobs, expects to sail today pollock seining, to the eastward.

Sch. Tartar, which came up from Noank, Conn., to engage in this fishery, sailed yesterday, going to the eastward.

Some of the pollock fleet have made port here for harbor, but the bulk of the fleet is to the eastward, on the Maine coast. The skippers are hoping that the easterly of yesterday this morning will stir the fish up so that they will school freely and show as they did off here early in February.

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Spoken on Georges.

Capt. Thomas Downey of sch. Fannie E. Prescott reports speaking sch. Etta Mildred on Georges. A big fleet of haddockers also came on the ground Friday, the day the Prescott left for home.

Spoken on Quero Bank.

Capt. Donald McCoish of sch. Mystery reports speaking schs. Preceptor and Yakima on Quero bank.

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NEW PLAN OF SELLING HALIBUT WENT INTO OPERATION TODAY.

Fish Sold at This Port With Heads on and No Deduction Made.

Prices Today Better Than Vessels at Portland Received.

There are three fares of fresh halibut at Portland this morning, schs. Harvard and Grayling of the Georges handline codfishing fleet, and both from the firm of Orlando Merchant of this port, and the straight halibut fishing sch. Waldo L. Stream of this port. The new plan of buying heads and all, and no deduction is being tried here today for the first time and the price is better than at Portland where the heads are taken off before weighing.

Sch. Grayling has 24,000 pounds of salt cod and 7000 pounds of halibut, sch. Harvard 25,000 pounds of salt cod, 10,000 pounds of fresh cod and 7000 pounds of halibut and sch. Waldo L. Stream 12,000 pounds of halibut.

The fare of sch. Mystery sold here this morning to the New England Fish Company at 10 cents per pound for white and 8 cents per pound for gray. This is the first fare of halibut to be sold here under the new plan decided upon last week, that of not

taking off 14 pounds per hundred pounds for the heads, as has been the custom for many years, but instead buying the fish just as haddock and cod are bought, with the heads on as usual, but making no deduction whatever for the heads, in short just buying the whole fish, head and all.

The price laid this morning is the same as was laid in Portland Saturday for the fare of sch. Colonial which trip was weighed and bought minus the heads, so the figure paid here today must be considered an advance, and this too with 15 cars of Pacific halibut in or due at Boston and New York today.

The fare of sch. Pauline sold here this morning to the American Halibut Company at 10 cents per pound for white and 8 cents per pound for gray, with the heads on and no deduction of 14 pounds per hundred for the heads.

This morning the three fares at Portland are selling on a three cull basis at 10, 8 and 7 cents, in the regular Portland style, being weighed with the heads off, so the prices here today are considerably better than that at Maine's leading fish city.

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HAS BIGGEST COD CATCH OF SEASON

Sch. Fannie E. Prescott Brings Good Trip From Georges.

The easterly of yesterday brought along a few of the fishing fleet with trips and the continuance of the wind from a southeast quarter this morning, with general storm accompaniment, sent quite a number of the market boats and pollockers scurrying to port for harbor.

The banner trip is that of sch. Fannie E. Prescott, Capt. Thomas Downey. The craft is from the shoal water of Georges and Capt. Downey hails his catch at 80,000 pounds of fresh cod and 20,000 pounds of haddock, not only the biggest cod catch of the season, but also one of the two largest trips brought in by the offshore haddock fleet this winter. Capt. Downey struck a fine cod spot and hauled back 35,000 pounds on the first short set.

Sch. Mystery, Capt. Donald McCoish, from Quero bank, has 15,000 pounds of fresh halibut and sch. Effie M. Prior from the Maine coast, pollock seining, brings 30,000 pounds of fresh pollock. Yesterday the steamer Nomad brought in 2500 pounds of fresh fish and late Saturday afternoon the same craft had 3000 pounds.

Sch. Colonial arrived yesterday from Portland, where she took out her fare of halibut and sch. Pauline came in late Saturday from Georges handlining, with 20,000 pounds of salt cod and 1000 pounds of halibut.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Pauline, Georges, 20,000 lbs. salt cod 4000 lbs. halibut.

Steamer Nomad, shore, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Mystery, Quero Bank, 15,000 lbs. halibut.

Steamer Nomad, shore, (Sunday), 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Fannie E. Prescott, Georges, 80,000 lbs. fresh cod, 20,000 lbs. fresh haddock.

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- Sch. Colonial, via Portland.
- Sch. Effie M. Prior, pollock seining, 30,000 lbs. fresh pollock.
- Sch. Electric Flash, pollock seining.
- Sch. Thalia, shore.
- Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, shore.
- Sch. Annie and Jennie, shore.
- Sch. Gladys and Nellie, shore.
- Sch. Yankee, shore.
- Sch. Galatea, shore.
- Sch. Rita A. Viator, shore.
- Sch. Mettacomet, shore.
- Sch. Eglantine, pollock seining, 5000 lbs. pollock.
- Sch. Walter P. Goulart, shore.
- Sch. Mary Edith, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

- Sch. Topsail Girl, shore.
- Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.
- Sch. Emily Sears, Boston.
- Sch. Mary E. Cooney, Boston.
- Sch. Valentinna, Boston.
- Sch. Ida M. Silva, Boston.
- Sch. Maud F. Silva, Boston.
- Sch. Motor, shore.
- Sch. Mettacomet, shore.
- Sch. Margie Smith, pollock seining.
- Sch. Tartar, pollock seining.

Today's Fish Market.

Bank halibut, 14 cts. per pound for white and 11 cts. for gray.
Georges halibut, 17 cents per lb. for white and 14 1-2 cents for gray.
Large halibut cod, \$3 per cwt.; medium cod, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.
Trawl salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.
Large salt handline Georges cod, \$3.50! mediums, \$3.00.
Trawl bank cod, large, \$3 per cwt.; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.
Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.
Salt pollock, \$1.25 per cwt.; salt haddock, \$1.25; salt hake, \$1.25.
Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$2 per cwt.; medium do., \$1.65; Eastern cod, large, \$1.60; medium cod, \$1.40; cusk, \$1.60 for large, \$1.20 for medium and 50c for snappers; haddock, 80 cts.; hake, 90 cts.; pollock, round 65 cts., dressed 70 cts.

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PACIFIC HALIBUT.

Fifteen cars of Pacific halibut are due east here today, seven cars at New York and eight cars at Boston.

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1,700,000 LBS. OF FRESH FISH.

Banner Day of the Season at T Wharf.

This is the banner fish day of the season at Boston this morning. The wharf is simply an island surrounded by an ocean of fish and the overflow is tied up at adjoining wharves, also over to East Boston and at anchor in the stream.

In all there are 55 vessels in, 15 being off shores, one a British herring vessel and 39 market boats. In all there are nearly 1,700,000 pounds of fish in the whole fleet in, the heaviest single morning receipts of the whole season. Prices of course rule low, as is to be expected and lots of fish were unsold, in fact many vessels cannot get anywhere near the wharf.

The 15 off-shore vessels have over a million pounds of fish between them and nearly half of the fish are cod. Sch. Manhasset, Capt. William Harding, has the largest fare, 125,000 pounds, indeed it is the largest fare brought in this whole season by a vessel of the haddock fleet. Sch. Slade Gorton, Capt. George E. Heckman and sch. Fannie Belle Atwood, Capt. John Atwood, each have 100,000 pounds of cod and haddock. Schs. Lillian, Josie and Phebe, Thomas A. Cromwell and Mildred Robinson have from 70,000 to 80,000 pounds each. The other off-shores have from 30,000 to 60,000 pounds each.

The fares of the market boats average about 13,000 pounds each and this for two days fishing, showing that fish are getting somewhat scarce along the shore grounds. The little sch. Freedom was full and running over, even having fish on deck. Her haul was 15,000 pounds of codfish.

Of the shore boats, sch. Helen B. Thomas has the largest fare, 28,000 pounds. Others with good trips are sch. Warren M. Goodspeed 20,000 pounds, sch. Flora J. Sears, 26,000 pounds, sch. Elva L. Spurling 18,000 pounds, sch. Annie Perry 19,000 pounds, sch. Aspinet 23,000 pounds, sch. Mary T. Fallon 19,000 pounds, sch. Manomet 22,000 pounds, sch. Catherine D. Enos 17,000 pounds, sch. Washakie 16,000 pounds, sch. Athena 24,000 pounds.

The herring craft is the British sch. J. B. Young of Lunenburg, N. S., from Fortune Bay, N. F. She has frozen herring.

Shore haddock brought \$2.50 to \$2.75 and shore large cod \$3, with markets at \$2, hake went at from \$2.50 to \$3.50, pollock \$2.50 and cusk \$2. Off-shore haddock sold at \$1.80, off-shore large cod \$2.25 and markets \$1.50, the latter figure being 10c below splitting price here. Many trips are unsold and lots of vessels will not be able even to get near the wharf until tomorrow to take out their trips.

The receipts in detail are:

Boston Arrivals.

Sch. Moanam, 33,000 haddock, 23,000 cod, 1000 pollock.
Sch. Lizzie M. Stanley, 30,000 haddock, 19,000 cod.
Sch. Louisa R. Sylva, 20,000 haddock, 8000 cod, 1000 hake, 2000 cusk.
Sch. Mary C. Santos, 34,000 haddock, 9000 cod, 1000 hake, 1000 cusk.
Sch. Josie and Phebe, 2000 haddock, 3000 cod, 50,000 hake, 15,000 cusk.
Sch. Lillian, 30,000 haddock, 50,000 cod.
Sch. Manhasset, 60,000 haddock, 65,000 cod.
Sch. Flora S. Nickerson, 25,000 haddock, 25,000 cod.
Sch. Thomas A. Cromwell, 50,000 haddock, 30,000 cod.
Sch. Romance
Sch. Mildred Robinson, 40,000 haddock, 37,000 cod.
Sch. Fannie Belle Atwood, 60,000 haddock, 40,000 cod.
Sch. Slade Gorton, 30,000 haddock, 70,000 cod.
Sch. Terra Nova, 34,000 haddock, 28,000 cod.
Sch. Jessie Costa, 15,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 10,000 hake, 5000 pollock.
Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 15,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 10,000 hake.
Sch. Annie Perry, 12,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 4000 pollock.
Sch. Alice, 2000 haddock, 500 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Warren M. Goodspeed, 17,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake, 1000 pollock.
Sch. Mattie D. Brundage.
Sch. Flora J. Sears, 20,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 3000 hake.

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Sch. Nettie Franklin, 7000 haddock, 3500 cod, 5000 pollock.
Sch. Ellen C. Burke, 11,000 haddock, 800 cod, 3500 hake.
Sch. Hortense, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Edith Silveria, 10,000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake.
Sch. Stranger, 2500 haddock, 1500 cod, 8000 hake.
Sch. Elva L. Spurling, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 7000 hake.
Sch. Priscilla, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 pollock.
Sch. Blanche F. Irving, 7000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Aspinet, 4000 haddock, 4000 cod, 15,000 hake.
Sch. Seacomet, 6000 haddock, 800 cod, 4000 hake.
Sch. Mary T. Fallon, 8000 haddock, 2000 cod, 6000 hake, 3000 pollock.
Sch. Ida M. Silva.
Sch. Azorean, 1200 cod.
Sch. N. A. Rowe, 1500 cod.
Sch. Washakie, 11,000 haddock, 4000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Freedom, 15,000 cod.
Sch. Valentina, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1500 hake, 1500 cusk.
Sch. Athena, 23,000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Little Fanny.
Sch. Esther Gray, 2500 haddock, 3500 cod.
Sch. Rose Standish, 4000 haddock, 1500 cod, 1500 hake, 1500 pollock.
Sch. Maud F. Silva, 7000 haddock,

2000 cod.
Sch. Mary E. Cooney, 6500 haddock, 1500 cod, 3000 pollock.
Sch. Emily Cooney, 6000 haddock, 1500 cod, 1000 hake, 1000 cusk, 4000 pollock.
Sch. Emily Sears.
Sch. Massasoit, 200 haddock, 3000 cod.
Sch. Catherine D. Enos, 1800 haddock, 15,000 cod, 500 pollock.
Sch. Sarah, 3000 cod.
Sch. Juliette, 1500 haddock, 2500 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. William H. Clement, 5000 cod.
Sch. Lydia.
Sch. Hobo, 6000 cod.
Sch. Manomet, 8000 haddock, 4000 cod, 5000 hake, 2500 cusk, 2500 pollock.
Br. sch. J. B. Young, frozen herring.
Off-shore haddock, \$1.80 per cwt.; off-shore large cod, \$2.25; off-shore market cod, \$1.50; shore haddock, \$2.50 to \$2.75; shore large cod, \$3; shore market cod, \$2; hake, \$2.50 to \$3.50; pollock, \$2.50; cusk, \$2.

HALIBUT WEEK AT PORTLAND.

Receipts Aggregating 110,000 Pounds,
Largest for Many Years.

Says the Portland Press of Saturday: "This has been halibut week in Portland. Up to last night there had been received 110,000 pounds on five trips, the largest for any one week this season and probably for many seasons. The great influx in halibut had its effect on the price, for while the first few pounds received commanded 13 and 15 cents a pound, this had dropped to 8 cents for gray and 10 cents for white yesterday.

"Another trip was brought into port yesterday which made the big total given above. This arrived on the Gloucester schooner Colonial, Capt. Isaac Merchant, and amounted to 20,000 pounds. The Colonial had been fishing on Quero and Capt. Merchant reported that he had had a rough time through the gales had not been particularly severe. He had spent nearly five weeks outside, and the greater part of that time there were stiff winds. Capt. Merchant reported that a fleet of about 15 vessels are still on Quero.

"Over a hundred thousand pounds of fish in a week could not be taken care of in the Portland market alone. There have been other places supplied and the J. W. Trefethen Co., who purchased every pound of halibut brought in, has sent large quantities to all points through the state and as far as New York. Whether or not the demand will keep up in the other cities will depend upon the fate of about 300,000 pounds of halibut now reported to be on the way to Boston from the Pacific, but delayed because of accidents on the railroads. If this should fail to arrive, there will be a demand for every pound that can be shipped from Portland, whether here now or coming later."

SECURING COD EGGS.

U. S. Fish Commission Steamer Gannet Has Begun Season's Work.

The United States fish commission steamer Gannet arrived at Portland from the Boothbay hatchery Friday on her first trip this season in search of cod eggs. About 2,000,000 eggs were secured from the fleet of fishermen off Cape Elizabeth Friday morning and the steamer went out again to get a further supply. This is only a preliminary trip on the part of the Gannet as she is not yet fully

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equipped for business, but on her next trip up she will have a full crew on board and from that time on until next fall, will do a considerably larger business than ever before in securing cod, flounder and lobster eggs for propagation at the hatchery, although no attempt will be made to gather lobster eggs until next month. Considerable improvement has been made during the winter on the buildings and equipment at the hatchery and everything now is in first class condition.

Portland Fish Notes.

The local fishing fleet started out bright and early Friday morning for the cod grounds and with the fine weather prevailing it is probable they will all be in Monday morning with good fares. A big call for fish is reported at all the leading ports, the high prices on meats causing many people to cultivate the fish habit.

The fishing schooner Carrie and Mildred, which has been laid up at Central wharf for the past two weeks with machinery damaged, has completed repairs and will start out in a few days in the fish business, operating the Atwood patent seine.

One trip of ground fish was brought here Friday, that on the Cape Porpoise schooner Sadie Nunan which discharged her fare of 7000 pounds at Central wharf.

Between 500 and 600 barrels of salt clams formed the cargo of the schooner Lillian which came into port Friday on her way to Gloucester from Sargentville. Capt. Norwood is one of many of the skippers along the Maine coast engaged in supplying other states with bait from Maine. His cargo of salt clams weighed in the neighborhood of 50 tons and is but a small part of the immense amount used by the fishermen in Massachusetts, the greater part of which comes from Maine.

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Big Fresh Fish Stock.

Sch. Fannie E. Prescott, Capt. Thos. Downey, stocked \$1980 as the result of her recent quick cod and haddock trip to Georges, the crew sharing \$52.65 clear. The big fare, 100,000 pounds, mostly codfish, was handled yesterday here by the Gloucester Fresh Fish Company.

Canadian Fish Merger.

The final arrangements in connection with the Canadian fresh fish merger were completed Thursday. The new concern will be known as the "Maritime Fish Corporation, Limited," with the head office at Montreal, and branch offices at Canso, Halifax, Digby, and other points on the Atlantic coast.

Alewives at Edgartown.

Alewives have begun to run at Edgartown. The first of the season were taken last Wednesday and since then some have been caught every day, although in small numbers.

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Talk About Pollocking!

David Gautenbein, at Tetonka Lake, Waterville, Minn., with 1800 feet of seine and a crew of seven men, hauled in 100 tons of buffalo at one time. The fish were unusually large, one of them weighing 47-2 pounds. The day's work netted Mr. Gautenbein \$7200. The haul would have been larger if the seine had not come in contact with some snags. Last year Mr. Gautenbein had 60,000 pounds of fish in one haul.

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Shipped Halibut to Boston.

Sch. Teazer of this port, which was at Liverpool, N. S., last week shipped 6000 pounds of halibut to Boston.

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Southern Fishery Notes.

The first Spanish mackerel captured at Galveston, Tex., was taken on Washington's birthday. It weighed one and one-half pounds.

A strange looking fish was captured at Galveston a few days ago. Captain Andrew Norstum, who has been a fisherman since he was big enough to walk, declared it to be of the "thrasher" family. They are to be found off the Gulf of Mexico and about the Cape of Good Hope. The Galveston specimen was much larger than those usually caught. The fish has no skin and lives on the bottom of the sea, where it crawls instead of swimming.