

St. John's, N. F., Fish Market.

A few days ago there was quite a drop in fish prices, which, in some cases, lessens the value to the catcher as much as 70 cents, compared with last week.

The decline is all around. Merchandise and Madeira fish, all qualities—or tal qual—being quoted at \$5.30 in St. John's and \$5.50 in the outports, to cover cost of freight.

West India, all qualities—tal qual—is now quoted at \$3.50 in St. John's—less freight from the outports.

Salmon has dropped \$1 for all grades.

Cod oil has lessened in price, the quotations being \$90 hardwood casks, softwood casks, \$84.

The prices were decided upon by the purchasers after a lengthy discussion of a message received that cholera was reported very bad in Italy and Sicily, and that French and Norwegians were offering at lower prices than last week.—St. John's, N. F., Herald.

Portland Fish Notes.

The fishing sch. Topsail Girl arrived from a four weeks' cruise to the eastward Monday bringing 34 swordfish. She has been cruising all along the Nova Scotia coast from St. Margaret's Bay to the edge of Georges, not finding fish any too plentiful. She will take on her heavier sails today, and when she goes out again will search for halibut.

Sch. Fannis Hayden returned to Portland Monday from Boston, where she landed a fare of 44 swordfish on Saturday. She will fit for shore fishing.

Missionary Schooner Leaking.

Dr. Grenfell's missionary schooner, George B. Cluett, which left Boston August 6, for St. Anthony's, N. F., filled with medical supplies, clothing, etc., for the Labrador missions has put into Halifax, N. S., leaking, and will have to effect repairs before resuming her passage north.

Halibut Trip Stocks.

Sch. Catherine Burke, Capt. Augustus G. Hall, stocked \$3959.59 as the result of her recent fine halibut trip, the crew of 22 men sharing \$78.25 each.

Sch. Monitor, Capt. George Merr, stocked \$2512.44 on her recent halibut trip, the crew sharing \$55.11.

Aug. 16.

Bait at Provincetown.

Provincetown sent word yesterday that squid bait was none too plenty, but that steamers had landed fair catches of blueback herring, with which a good many mackerel were mixed. The 150 barrels of blueback herring landed there Monday from the steamer A. B. Nickerson went to the freezers. Small boats running out from Bear river and Portuguese cove, N. S., have been taking catches of mackerel in nets.

Halibut Sales.

The fares of halibut of sch. John Hays Hammond and Corona sold to the New England Fish Company at 10 cents per pound for white and 8 cents for gray.

The fare of sch. Selma went to the American Halibut Company at the same price.

Aug. 17.

NEW CONCERN INTERESTED.

WATSON FISH COMPANY BEHIND PROJECT TO SEND VESSELS TO PACIFIC.

When the Watson Fish Company was incorporated at Portland, Me., some weeks ago, with a capital of \$250,000, much mystery attached to the same, and there were all sorts of guesses in fish circles as to the object of the new concern and where it was to locate. Now the secret is out, according to Boston reports, for the new concern is behind the plan of sending three Boston fishing vessels to the Pacific coast to engage in fresh halibutting, with which plan

Times readers are already familiar. The Watson Fish Company has been formed with a capital of \$250,000, of which \$150,000 is eight per cent, preferred stock. Three shares of common stock are given with each share of preferred. The officers of the company are: President, Louis B. Goodspeed; vice president, Herbert V. Nickerson; secretary-treasurer, William K. Beardsley; directors, the above and Charles W. Turner, John M. Watson and E. Forbes.

A Boston report says that one new schooner is being built at Essex to accompany schs. Athena and Flora S. Nickerson to the Pacific. Capt. Herbert V. Nickerson, one of the officers of the new concern, is skipper and part owner of sch. Victor and Ethan, a sister craft to sch. Athena, and it is generally believed here, unless the new concern has quietly purchased sch. Flora S. Nickerson, which is now out on a fishing trip, that sch. Victor and Ethan is the craft, instead of the Nickerson, which will make the trip.

TRADE LIGHT AT T WHARF.

NO LIFE TO THE MARKET EXCEPT IN MACKEREL AND PRICES SAG.

T wharf is in the doldrums. There is hardly any trade and it is about as dull as can be imagined with all the dealers. There is practically "nothing doing," the only activity being in mackerel when they are in. Even swordfish, which are in very light receipts, have fallen under the spell and prices are far from what would naturally be expected.

In the face of present conditions the dealers are glad that receipts today are light, four small swordfish trips and four vessels with small groundfish fares being the sum total of arrivals since last report. There is practically no demand so quotations amount to but little. A few haddock sold at \$1.25 and large cod, about the only thing with any life at all to it, brought \$4. There are no quoted sales of hake and cusk is way below splitting price. Pollock are low, bringing but \$1.25, indicating that the season on "Boston Bay blues" is about over.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Sch. Genesta, 47,000 haddock, 1500 cod, 3000 pollock. Sch. Appomattox, 1000 haddock, 11,000 cod, 2500 hake, 3000 cusk. Sch. Viking, 2000 haddock, 16,000 cod, 3000 cusk, 3000 pollock. Sch. Mildred J. 36 swordfish. Sch. Valentinna, 25 swordfish. Sch. Jennie H. Gilbert, 17 swordfish. Sch. Mettacomet, 15 swordfish. Sch. Flaville, 15,000 cod. Haddock, \$1.25 per cwt.; large cod, \$4; market cod, \$2.25; cusk, \$1.10; pollock \$1.25; swordfish, 8 cents per lb.

Fulton Fish Market Notes.

The smacks landed nearly 350,000 pounds of bluefish, sea bass and porgies at the market this week, says the Fishing Gazette, and prices were comparatively low, still buying was light. On all grades of fish in the salt water fish market, prices were favorable. In the fresh water fish market, because of the low prices in the salt water market, there was little doing.

In all there were 29 trips of fish, of which 22 were bluefish, four sea bass, two porgies and one of mixed fish. The catch of bluefish numbered 73,825, which at an average weight of three pounds each meant 221,475 pounds. There was 51,840 pounds of sea bass, 42,000 pounds of porgies and 32,000 pounds of mixed fish.

Codfish—There was no market cod in the market during the first part of the week. On Wednesday and Thursday 3 cents to 4 cents was the price. There was some market cod to be had on Friday, while there was no sale for it.

Steak cod sold at 5½ cents to 9 cents. The higher price prevailed during the first days of the week. There was no steak cod in the market on Saturday.

Fluke and flounders were plentiful during the early part of the week, selling at 3 cents to 3½ cents. On Thursday and Friday the price of fluke was 2 cents to 3 cents.

Haddock brought 3½ cents to 4 cents.

Halibut—Western white halibut was quoted at 9 cents to 10 cents during the entire week. Eastern whitefish sold at 14 cents to 15 cents.

Hake was quoted at 3 cents to 5 cents.

Pollock sold at 2½ cents Saturday. Earlier in the week it was quoted as high as 5½ cents.

Lunenburg Fleet Doing Poorly.

A few days ago there was a fleet of about 15 Lunenburg bankers at Carbonar, N. F., seeking squid, but none was available. As already reported, the Lunenburg crews have done poorly on their last trips, owing to the scarcity of caplin bait, and should the squid fall, their total catch will be very small. Recently squid was fairly plentiful at Burin, and quite a number of the Newfoundland fleet secured supplies and sailed for the banks.

Sharks in South Channel.

Fishermen frequenting the South channel, Georges and South Shoal grounds report that blueback sharks are schooling in these places in large numbers. Some of the sharks are extremely large and bother the fishermen considerably, venturing close to the dories and destroying much gear.

Aug. 16. FISH COMPANY DEAL ABANDONED

PROMOTERS FAILED TO TAKE UP OPTION ON STOCK OF BAY STATE COMPANY.

The negotiations for the purchase of the Bay State Fishing Company by New York interests to be known as the Atlantic Fisheries Company is declared by President J. R. Neil of the former company to be off. A price was set at which the Bay State Company could be bought but the prospective purchasers failed to take up their option it is stated.

The interests which were to have purchased the control of the Bay State Fishing Company are the same which recently purchased the \$400,000 common stock of the Boston Fisheries Company and turned that property over to the control of the Consolidated Fisheries Company of Maine with \$7,000,000 authorized capital stock.

It is the intention of the new Consolidated Fisheries Company it was stated today to build immediately a fleet of five steel steam trawlers some of which will be 145 feet long.

Aug. 16.

SEAWEED FOR FERTILIZER.

Hampton Farmers Indulging in a New Occupation This Summer.

Farmers from the towns and villages adjacent to the beach are busily engaged in hauling quantities of seaweed and kelp from the seashore to their farms, where it is to be used as fertilizer, an unusual custom in this part of the country. The heavy tides of the last few weeks have brought in a vast amount of this seaweed, which, owing to its salty composition, is useful to fertilize crops and the Hampton farmers are taking advantage of the supply brought in. The department of agriculture advocates this method, as this seaweed fertilizer is well adapted to some crops, and after it has formed a compost it is of additional value in many ways. Along the Maine coast this custom has been quite generally followed, but locally the idea is a new and novel one which is attracting considerable attention.

Aug. 17.

NO MACKEREL REPORTED TODAY.

Stories of Large Quantity of Fish on Maine Coast Still Continue.

This is the first morning for quite a while that an arrival with fresh mackerel has been missing from the Boston or local report, but it was too blowy yesterday for the vessels on Middle bank to do any fishing and today will also be a blowy one if early appearances count for anything.

The news from the Maine coast, as to large fish, continues to be of an encouraging nature and as soon as some of the big vessels of the seining fleet get down there it is pretty close to a safe bet that some fine fares will be forthcoming. There are large mackerel schooling all along the Maine coast from Wood Island east and some good hauls have been made, as previously reported. Reports from Maine as to the good schools of large fish have not been colored, as they come from authoritative sources, but the catches have not been large as the fleet on the fish have been only netters and small gasoline boats like the Elthier and Kate and Nellie, etc., which are fitted with small, shoal seines, which would not do much execution especially if the schools are wild. Sharks are reported plentiful there also, but then this is to be expected, as there is al-

ways some drawback every time there is a good show of mackerel.

Sharks Destroyed Seine of Mackerel Steamer.

Sharks raised havoc with the mackerel seine owned by Capt. Eben Brown of the steamer E. N. Brown off Monhegan, Tuesday, while the crew of the fishing steamer were making every effort to secure a large catch of mackerel and Capt. Brown was forced to come to Portland yesterday morning to get fixed up.

The sharks got tangled up in the seines placed out by the crew of the Portland fishing boat and in their efforts to get free the dreaded fish tore it badly and Capt. Brown said that his loss would amount to about \$100. "That is not the only loss either," said Capt. Brown, "as had we not been bothered by the sharks we would have made a big catch of mackerel. We struck a number of fine schools."

In speaking of the sudden appearance of mackerel off the coast of Maine, Capt. Brown said that the fish were all along the coast and that they were particularly thick between Monhegan and Matinicus. All the fishing boats catching mackerel are selling their fish to the dealers at Eastern ports as they want to keep right on the track of the mackerel. Capt. Brown said that he would not have come back to Portland if the sharks had not tore up his seines.

The Portland steamer did not lose all her mackerel catch, however, as Capt. Brown sold 2100 pounds to Portland dealers for 11 1-2 cents per pound.

# ANOTHER STEAM TRAWLER HERE.

### QUARTETTE IN BOSTON FLEET HAVE BEEN HERE IN THREE DAYS.

The steam trawler Crest came down here yesterday afternoon from Boston to land 60,000 pounds of fresh fish to the splitters. She completes the quartette of this class of crafts in the New England fishing fleet, and it is notable that within three days all four have been at this port and landed their fares to split. This not only shows how dull the fresh fish market is at T wharf at present, but also points out in no uncertain manner, how with two more of this class of fishing craft sailing to the Boston market, which report says are surely coming, the chances of the skippers of the market sailing fishing fleet for striking big markets are made much less than formerly. Two of these crafts were in Monday, another arrived Tuesday and another Wednesday. With two more in the fleet, their dates or arrival can be fixed almost absolutely and one a day, or two on the best fish selling days in the week, can be looked for almost with certainty. With the quantity of fish these crafts bring on their average trips, the "cream" of any high market caused by adverse weather conditions and fish scarcity on the shore is gone to the hard working and hustling men of the shore market fleet and the chances of big strikes are lessened so that the business will be hum drum instead of the glorious "chance" it now is and unusually high prices and big stocks, for the market fishermen at least, will be almost a thing of the past.

Sch. Romance also came down from Boston yesterday afternoon with 85,000 pounds of fresh fish for the splitters and this morning sch. Jorgina, one of the market fleet now shacking to the eastward, has one of her usual good fares, 110,000 pounds of fresh fish.

#### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Jorgina, shacking, 110,000 lbs. fresh fish.  
 Steam trawler Crest, via Boston, 60,000 lbs. fresh fish.  
 Sch. Romance, via Boston, 85,000 lbs. fresh fish.  
 Steamer Marchant, shore, 50 bbls. fresh bluebacks.  
 Steamer Independence shore, 30 bbls. fresh bluebacks.  
 Steamer Alice, shore, 15 bbls. fresh bluebacks, 25 bbls. porgies.  
 Steamer Unknown, shore, 60 bbls. porgies.  
 Sch. Charles A. Dyer, seining.  
 Sch. Ralph L. Hall, seining.  
 Steamer Annie L. Wilcox, porgying.  
 Sch. Julietta, via Boston.

#### Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Annie and Jennie, shore.  
 Sch. Frances V. Sylvia, haddocking.  
 Steam trawler Peam, haddocking.  
 Sch. Esperanto, seining.  
 Sch. Saladin, seining.  
 Sch. Veda M. McKown, seining.  
 Sch. Victor, seining.  
 Sch. Little Fannie, seining.  
 Sch. Marion E. Turner, seining.  
 Sch. Charles A. Dyer, seining.  
 Steamer Bessie M. Dugan, seining.  
 Sch. Electric Flash, seining.  
 Sch. Frances P. Mesquita, shacking.  
 Sch. James W. Parker, shacking.  
 Sch. Emily Cooney, shacking.  
 Sch. Benjamin A. Smith, shacking.  
 Sch. Tattler, dory handlining.  
 Sch. Mary A. Gleason, salt drifting.  
 Sch. Eugenia, salt drifting.  
 Sch. Marjie Turner, halibuting.  
 Sch. Waldo L. Stream, halibuting.

#### TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

##### Salt Fish.

Salt mackerel, \$26 per bbl. for large and \$18 per bbl. for tinkers.  
 Salt trawl bank codfish, \$4.25 per cwt. for large, \$3.75 for mediums and \$2.75 for snappers.  
 Handline Georges codfish, large \$5, medium, \$4.45, snappers, \$3.  
 Salt "Drift" codfish, large, \$4.87 1-2, medium \$4.45.  
 Salt bank dory handline cod \$4.75 per cwt. for large and \$4.25 for mediums.  
 Eastern halibut codfish, large \$4.75, medium, \$4.  
 Haddock, \$1.75.  
 Pollock, \$1.75.  
 Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.50.  
 Hake, \$1.50.

Eastern shack cod, \$4.25 for large and \$3.75 for mediums.  
 All codfish with napes picked bring 25c over the above prices.

##### Fresh Fish.

Haddock, \$1 and \$1.05 per cwt.  
 Large cod, \$2.55 per cwt.; medium, \$2 per cwt.  
 Peak and Western bank fresh codfish, \$2.40 per cwt. for large and \$1.90 for mediums.  
 Cusk, large, \$1.60; mediums, \$1.20.  
 Snapper, cusk, 60 cts.  
 Hake, \$.90.  
 Dressed pollock, 90 cts. round, 80 cts.  
 Bank halibut, 10 for white and 8 for gray.  
 Fresh "drift" codfish, large, \$2.60 per cwt.; mediums, \$2.05.  
 Fresh shad, \$3.15 per bbl.  
 Fresh whiting, 60 cts. per bbl. W.  
 Porgies (for oil) 75 cents per bbl.  
 Fresh bluebacks for bait, \$2.50 per bbl.; to the freezer, \$1.50.

#### Portland Fish Notes.

Most of the Portland vessels which have been engaged in swordfishing this season, landing their fares at Boston, are now coming to their home port to refit, two reaching here Wednesday, schs. Edmund F. Black and George H. Lubee, both of them having taken out good fares at Boston. Nearly all the local vessels have done well this season in that branch of the fishing business, and have made good stocks. Quite a number of the vessels will now fit out for halibuting.

#### Fitting for Seining.

Sch. Blanche F. Irving and Emerald are now fitting for seining. Quite a number of the crafts which have been swordfishing are reported to be changing over to seining or to mackerel netting.

## THE NEWFOUNDLAND CODFISHERY.

### Smaller Catch Than Last Season But Better Prices Predicted.

At the present time when the prospects of a big catch of bank cod by the Gloucester fleet, such as in 1909, seems very remote, although there is ground for the hope that the comparative short catch of last season may be exceeded, the following resume of the Newfoundland codfishing season to date, together with the prophecy of a total catch somewhat smaller than last season, from the columns of the St. John's, N. F., Chronicle will be of interest here, not only to producers and shippers, but to skippers and fishermen as well.

The article is evidently authoritative, and carefully prepared and is also interesting from the fact that Newfoundland expects increased money returns to offset this anticipated short catch because both Canadian and Gloucester firms are figuring to a considerable extent in the buying market.

#### The Chronicle says:

"Now that the month of August is with us, a review of the general fishery situation may be safely made and an analysis of the probable outlook be indicated. As things are at present, it would seem as if the catch would be somewhat smaller than last year's, but that the shortage would be offset, to a very large extent at least, by the unusually good price that prevails.

"The winter fishery on the Western Shore was a good one, the banking fleet has done pretty well, and a fair catch has been made by boats on parts of the South Coast. Elsewhere the traps have been short and stretches of the coast have seen comparatively little fish, while on the Southern Shore, the small boats have done pretty well, traps have failed entirely, and have now been taken up, the trap voyage being abandoned.

"The Northern Bays have had more than ordinary success, the catch being unusually large and in some instances the best for many years. In the Straits, however, the fishery has been a blank and the indications from Labrador do not point to an excessive harvest of the deep in that quarter.

"The figures of export quoted for the fiscal year which ended with June last, are not yet available, but according to the Board of Trade, estimates the total would not exceed 1,300,000, a shortage of say 200,000 quintals as compared with the previous year. It looks now as if the total catch for the present season would not much exceed that of last year. This substantially guarantees that the prevailing price at present will be pretty well maintained though it is possible that there may be a slight decline in the figures. Still, however, it is not probable that this will be very serious, since the Canadian and American buyers now on our coasts in quest of

green and dry fish will be offering such figures as will serve to maintain a price that will compare very favorably with what rules at present.

"One of the most hopeful features of recent years is the manner in which Canadian buyers have been drawing on our supplies to supplement the shortage in their own catch, thus ensuring all of a market for about 100,000 quintals annually, and enabling us to count with certainty upon a correspondingly profitable trade in this quarter, by reason of the fact that their markets are such that they can be assured of putting their stocks into circulation there season after season. The incoming of American buyers, too, the past year or so, has helped materially in the same direction and promises to do more in this way in the future.

"The likely passage of the Reciprocity agreement between Canada and the United States is certain to increase the avenues for the consumption of fish in the great republic, and even if the Canadians should enlarge their sales to that country, it seems probable that we shall be able to dispose of some of our supply in the places which they will have to leave bare in order to secure a share of the American market. Furthermore, several of the Gloucester firms have been prospecting, so to speak, in our own territory recently with a view to making extensive purchases of green fish for use in the various operations they follow in New England and notably for use in the large trade in boneless and boxed fish which they have developed of recent years.

"On the whole, then, it would appear as if the situation this fall and next winter with regard to our codfishery products would prove fairly encouraging, and that those concerned in the catching and marketing our annual supply of codfish would be able to secure a fairly satisfactory return for their labors in this respect."

#### Large Swordfish.

About the largest swordfish ever seen at Portland was landed Wednesday on Portland pier by Capt. John Kennedy of Cliff Island, who with his son William, a lad of 12 years, tackled the big fish on Tuesday when about 25 miles south of Cape Elizabeth lights. The two were in a 23 foot Hampton boat. After the fish was harpooned he dragged the boat fully three miles before he gave up. The fish weighed about 600 pounds, and it was a pretty difficult job to get it into the boat. Daggett, at Portland pier, bought the fish, which weighed 446 pounds after being dressed, Capt. Kennedy making \$44.60 for the day's work of himself and son.

## SPLITTERS WILL TAKE FRESH FISH

### ONLY ONE FARE AT THIS PORT BESIDES GASOLINERS WITH BLUEBACKS.

Arrivals here since last report have been very few, the only one up to this morning from off-shore being sch. Walter P. Goulart, with 45,000 pounds of fresh fish, which will go to the splitters.

Yesterday afternoon several of the gasoline shore fleet came in with bluebacks, about 300 barrels in all, some of which went for bait fresh, some to salt and the rest to the freezers, the Stanwood freezer taking some.

Several of the porgy boat fleet were in last night for harbor and went out early this morning. They are operating in sight of the mouth of the harbor and are understood to be doing quite well.

#### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:  
 Sch. Walter P. Goulart, Cape Shore, 45,000 lbs. fresh fish.  
 Steamer Mindora, shore, 50 bbls. fresh bluebacks.  
 Steamer Herbert and Emma, shore, 50 bbls. fresh bluebacks.  
 Steamer Independence II., shore, 30 bbls. fresh bluebacks.  
 Steamer Unknown, shore, 80 bbls. fresh bluebacks.  
 Steamer Marchant, shore, 40 bbls. fresh bluebacks.

#### Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Mary Sears, shore.  
 Sch. Actor, shore.  
 Sch. Mary E. Cooney, haddocking.  
 Sch. Clara G. Silva, haddocking.  
 Sch. Harriet, haddocking.  
 Sch. Mary T. Fallon, halibuting.  
 Steamer Crest, haddocking.  
 Sch. Catherine Burke, halibuting.  
 Sch. Monitor, halibuting.  
 Sch. Grace Otis, seining.  
 Sch. M. Madeleine, seining.  
 Sch. Eglantine, salt drifting.

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 Salt bank dory handline cod \$4.75 per cwt. for large and \$4.25 for mediums.  
 Eastern halibut codfish, large \$4.75, medium, \$4.  
 Haddock, \$1.75.  
 Pollock, \$1.75.  
 Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.50.  
 Hake, \$1.50.  
 Eastern shack cod, \$4.25 for large and \$3.75 for mediums.  
 All codfish with napes picked bring 25c over the above prices.  
 Salted whiting, \$2 per bbl. W.  
 Fresh Fish.  
 Haddock, \$1 and \$1.05 per cwt.  
 Large cod, \$2.55 per cwt.; medium, \$2 per cwt.  
 Peak and Western bank fresh codfish, \$2.40 per cwt. for large and \$1.90 for mediums.  
 Cusk, large, \$1.60; mediums, \$1.20.  
 Snapper, cusk, 60 cts.  
 Hake, \$.90.  
 Dressed pollock, 90 cts. round, 80 cts.  
 Bank halibut, 10 for white and 8 for gray.  
 Fresh "drift" codfish, large, \$2.60 per cwt.; mediums, \$2.05.  
 Fresh shad, \$3.15 per bbl. W.  
 Fresh whiting, 60 cts. per bbl.  
 Porgies (for oil) 75 cents per bbl.  
 Fresh bluebacks for bait, \$2.50 per bbl.; to the freezer, \$1.50.

#### Fishing Fleet Movements.

Schs. Mabelle E. Leavitt and Metamora were at Liverpool, N S., Tuesday and cleared.  
 Schs. Gladys and Sabra, Mary B. Greer, Norma and Virginia arrived at Liverpool Tuesday and cleared.

#### Stocked \$2975 on Halibut.

Sch. John Hays Hammond, Capt. Lemuel E. Spinney, stocked \$2975 as the result of her recent halibut trip, the crew sharing \$70.50 clear.