

## GOOD REPORT FROM MAGDALENS

"During the past year the cod and herring fishery of the Magdalens proved the most successful on record and the islanders secured good hauls at every sitting," said Captain Ferguson, of the steamer Lady Sybil, recently. This craft completed her last run of the season to the Magdalen Islands last week and is at St. John's, N. F., to lay up for the winter and have an overhauling. The captain stated the fishing season just closed with the advent of the ice floes had been one of the most successful in the history of the gulf group, though the heavy fogs of last June proved a severe hindrance in the catching of lobsters and consequently the yield was below the average.

Practically no satisfactory fares of mackerel were taken in the warm weather, but in no part of the Atlantic seaboard were the runs of these elusive fish successfully tapped last year. Failure to get the mackerel was more than obliterated in the great harvest of herring which Captain Ferguson states enabled the inhabitants, who are chiefly followers of the sea, to be financially well fixed for the cold weather and its resultant cessation of operations. "On my runs up from Pictou," said the captain, "I frequently passed by herring shoals in which the fish were so numerous that the reflection of the moonlight on their silvery-scaled bodies made the great schools resemble banks of the great schools resemble banks of snow. In fact they were so plentiful that often they were driven ashore tangled in the thick seaweed and kelp."

In the cold winter months, when the islanders are isolated from the outer world and are shut by the extensive ice-fields, many of the islanders take sleighs out on the ice and bag seals from the straggling herds which drift down on the floes. Last spring 10,000 of these were shot and the oil extracted and barreled for shipment to Nova Scotia. A new industry that is being started is the smoking of bloaters and already 6000 cases of these have been exported.

On the completion of the last trip north of the Lady Sybil from Pictou, Captain Ferguson was presented with a set of meerschaum pipes by the chief citizens of Magdalens, while William McClure, the owner, received a valuable gold necklet-pendant, set with pearls for Mrs. McClure, as well as an address signed by prominent people in the islands. The address thanked him for the effective service that had been maintained and for the fine qualities of the steamships which had afforded such benefits to the islanders. During the past year they had had the finest shipping facilities in their history and felt some recognition of their gratitude was due those responsible for the successful carrying out of the regular steamship route to the mainland.

The Lady Sybil is a staunch craft well equipped for battling with the sweeping combers of the St. Lawrence Gulf, and she has come through many a stormy passage that would have proven very detrimental to another vessel of similar size.—St. John's N. F. Herald, Jan. 18.

### Foreign Mackerel.

A firmer feeling and stronger tone in fine grades of imported mackerel is reported says the Fishing Gazette. Norway No. 1 has been sold in a moderate way as high as \$34, and some fair sized sales of Norway No. 3 springs have been made at \$12.50 to \$13. Irish mackerel is somewhat stronger and better sales are looked for as the season of Lent advances. Moderate shipments of Irish only have been received at Boston, the last noted being one of \$4 barrels on January 20. The Liverpool report of January 11 quotes total shipment of Irish for week to date as 342 barrels, of which New York got 208, Boston 84 and New Orleans 50 barrels. Total shipments to date, 1912 Irish autumn, 21,988 barrels; 1912 Norway autumn, 4,767 barrels. Report for week to January 18 quotes total shipments 957 barrels, of which Boston took 597 and other ports 360 barrels, court being 350 to 400.

## HALIFAX'S FRESH FISHING FLEET

The fishing business out of Halifax is growing all the time and is now one of her big enterprises. What is done from Halifax is "fresh fishing," in contra distinction to the salt or hard-cured fishing carried on from Lunenburg by the splendid fleet from that port. One thing about the fishery from Halifax is that it goes on all the time, or rather that for nine months of the year there is no cessation. In the months of June, July and August there is little or nothing done, but for the rest of the year the fishing goes on constantly.

Last week the cod and haddock landed at Halifax for the North Atlantic Fisheries Company alone was 300,000 pounds, two schooners of the fleet fishing for this company landing 34,000 and 30,000 pounds respectively. Besides the cod and haddock fishery at the present time large quantities of frozen herring for bait, caught in Newfoundland waters, are being landed. The schooners Shamrock and Strathcona are in port discharging 800,000 herring for this purpose. A business like this is an important matter for the port.

Here is the fleet of schooners, numbering 29 vessels, fishing for the company previously mentioned, besides which they have a large number of smaller craft:

A. Hubley, Ella May, Edith Adele, Bonnie B., Vera May, Morona, Pearl Beatrice, Naf, Una E. Hart, Gladys G. Hart, I Wonder Y, Ovilla, Jennie P. S., Beatrice H., Gladys Irene, Minnie M. Mosher, James L., Rosie L., Joseph Earl, Gladys E. B., Nellie J Banks, Alcyone, Rosway, Oswald, Adelaide, Plymouth Rock, Kathleen W., Lydia May, Steamer Vipon.

## CONDITIONS AT LUNENBURG N. S.

Recent sales of bank fish at Lunenburg have cut down stocks at first hands to less than 40,000 quintals. These sales have steadied the market and while the outlook at present is none too good, the opinion is expressed by some that there will be no further drop in price at the present time, and perhaps not for the balance of the season, says the Maritime Merchant. The Porto Rico market shows some recovery and for a few days there was a demand for prompt shipments. Stocks however, were ample to meet all requirements, so that there is no expectation that prices can advance, and there is some danger of too large shipments being made if too much eagerness is displayed in pushing for business in that market. There is an average demand for fish in Cuba and Jamaica, but in the latter market prices had to be lowered in the last month in order to do business.

Mediterranean dried fish markets are strong, and Labrador fish for that trade has advanced 3 to 4 shillings. This is a good thing for the Lunenburg banker, as it will probably keep any further supplies of Labrador from coming to this market if conditions hold as above mentioned, the Maritime Merchant continues. The Oporto market is weak, owing to smaller consumption, but an improvement is looked for shortly. A factor that will make for improvement in European markets generally will be the cessation of the Balkan war. Greece is a large consumer of fish, and since she became involved in the fight, shipments to her ports have been very greatly restricted. The news from North and South Brazil is that the markets are strong, but the demands for winter trade have already been filled and now there will be a lull for a month or two before things pick up again.

### Newfoundland Bank Catch.

The Newfoundland Deputy Minister of Customs reports that instead of a shortage in the returns of the bank fishermen there is an increase of over 500 quintals, compared with the total of last year. The figures are: Total catch, 1911-12, 155,517 quintals; total catch, 1910-11, 149,924 quintals; catch per vessel, 1911-12, 1254 quintals; catch per vessel, 1910-11, 1228 quintals; catch per man, 1910-11, 78 quintals; catch per man, 1911-12, 75 1-4 quintals.

## MADE GOOD LIFTS YESTERDAY

### Some of Gill Netters Go in a Very Profitable Day's Work.

Not an off shore arrival of any description is reported here this morning although the two remaining crafts of the Newfoundland herring fleet are expected most any time, which will complete the list for the season.

Capt. Patrick McGrath of sch. Tacoma reported in yesterday's Times from Bonne Bay tells the Times reporter that the weather encountered on the way home was some of the worst imaginable. While the craft quickly escaped damage, she encountered some bitter cold weather while coming across Cabot Strait and the Gulf. Ice froze on the decks to a depth of several inches, while the rigging was so heavily wrapped in a mantle of ice that he was obliged to put into North Sydney to thaw out. The Tacoma was there three days before she was clear of ice, after which the passage home was resumed.

A number of the gill netters made some good sized lifts yesterday. The new steamer Nora Robinson had the banner fare of the day, landing 8600 weight of mixed fish which the hustling firm of A. Cooney & Company shipped fresh to the Boston market. Yesterday's receipts totalled some 60,000 pounds in all.

### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

- Str. Ibsen, gill netting, 600 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 4300 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Rough Rider, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Margaret D., gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. F. S. Willard, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Prince Olaf, gill netting, 900 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Nomad, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Robert and Edwin, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Venture, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Sunflower, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. George E. Fisher, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Gertrude T., gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Nashawena, gill netting, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Mystery, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. R. J. Kellick, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Bessie M. Dugan, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Sawyer, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Seven Brothers, 500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Swan, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Naomi Bruce, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Sch. Little Fannie, 1300 lbs. fresh fish.

### Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Mina Swim, Newfoundland.  
Sch. Etta Mildred, Georges handling.  
Sch. Evelyn M. Thompson, Boston.

### TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

#### Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5.50 per cwt; medium, \$4.62 1-2; snappers, \$3.25.  
Eastern deck handline codfish, large, \$5.25; medium, \$4.50.  
Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.50; mediums, \$3.75; snappers, \$3.  
Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.50; mediums, \$4.  
Cusk, large, \$2.25; mediums, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25.  
Pollock, \$1.50.  
Hake, \$1.50.  
Haddock, \$1.50.  
Newfoundland salt herring, \$3.25 per bbl.  
Newfoundland pickled herring, \$5 per bbl.

#### Fresh Fish.

Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt.  
Eastern cod, large, \$2.10; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c.  
Western cod, large, \$2.15; mediums, \$1.80; snappers, 75c.  
All codfish not gilled 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.  
Hake, \$1.15.  
Cusk, large, \$1.30; mediums, \$1; snappers, 50c.  
Dressed pollock, 80c.; round, 90c.  
Bank halibut 15 1-2c per lb. for white; 12 1-2c for gray.  
Newfoundland frozen herring, \$2.75 per cwt.

#### Salt Fish Active.

There is more activity this week in all lines of domestic salt fish owing to the approach of the Lenten season, but only moderate orders in general have been booked so far, says the Fishing Gazette of last week. The trade, however, reported a growing increase in the number of sales as the week advanced. Codfish is quite firm and steady.

#### Portland Fish Notes.

Fish receipts Tuesday were confined to the small lots landed by the boat fishermen, the vessels that went outside having found it too rough to accomplish much.

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## MAINE HAS A NEW FISH HEAD

Edward E. Chase of Blue Hill is better known as Judge Chase, has been named as commissioner of sea and shore fisheries. He has been judge of the western Hancock municipal court, and also judge of probate of Hancock county for several years. Judge Chase has served in the legislature as a representative from Blue Hill for two terms, has been a member of the governor's council, serving as councillor when Governor Haines was a state councillor and was a trustee of the Maine Insane hospital for one term.

#### Pensacola Arrivals.

The receipts of red snapper and groupers in Pensacola during 1912 reached goodly proportions. E. E. Saunders & Co. found at the end of the year that receipts of snappers reached the sum of 5,149,880 and groupers 1,771,291. The Warren Fish Co.'s figures were 3,000,000 snappers and 750,000 groupers.

Arrivals: last week at Pensacola were:

For E. E. Saunders Co.—Louise Harper, 18,690 snappers; 9,125 groupers; Emile Enos, 28,400 snappers; 32,500 groupers; Albert Geiger, 19,000 snappers, 4,645 groupers; Cavalier, 25,060 snappers, 3,985 groupers; Flora J. Sears, 30,810 snappers, 9,645 groupers; Fish Hawk, 17,785 snappers, 12,570 groupers; Angelina, 4,500 snappers.

For Warren Fish Co.—Hope, 12,000 snappers, 30,000 groupers; Silas Staurns, 16,360 snappers, 3,345 groupers; Althea Franklin, 2,000 snappers, 2,000 groupers.

#### Porto Rico Fish Market.

As was to be expected, the light receipts have caused a sudden sharp advance in our markets, and sales of the scant available supplies have been made on a rising scale. Demand is on the increase and should easily take care of the next moderate arrivals at full prices. While we understand sales have been made at higher prices, we would quote about as follows as being nearer today's normal market values: Codfish, \$33 to \$34 per cask of 450 lbs.; pollock and haddock, \$23 to \$24 per cask of 450 lbs.—Reported January 14, 1913, by S. Ramirez & Co., San Juan, Porto Rico.

#### New Fish Concerns.

Big Four Fisheries Company, Boston, Mass., capital, \$100,000; to operate shipments of lobsters and fresh and salt fish. Officers: C. K. Davis, C. H. Merservy and J. B. Condon.  
W. L. Daggett Company, Portland, Me., has been incorporated to conduct the wholesale and retail fish business; capital \$50,000. President, W. L. Daggett; treasurer, J. A. Tonneson, Portland.

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# THE AFRICAN GAME FISHES

## Some of Them Are Reported Far Too Ponderous to Even Be Landed.

This is not a tale of slaughter. My experiences with West African sea fish are limited to Lagos, in Southern Nigeria, and are little more than a record of failure, but I write in the hope that better men may succeed where I failed, and that in places where the obstacles to sport are not as many as in Lagos, others may be induced to take up one of the finest forms of sport, the pursuit of the great game fish of the tropics.

Lagos Harbor is a wide, muddy estuary with several tidal creeks flowing into it. At the entrance is the usual sandbar, with a heavy surf beating on it, making it impossible for large vessels to enter. A service of "branch boats," small steamers of some 8-foot draft, has for many years been kept up to carry cargo from the ocean-going ships across the bar, but no small number of these have been wrecked on the ever-changing sands and now a scheme is on foot to push out two huge moles of stone beyond the bar, forming a narrow outlet which the scour of the tide is expected to keep clear. When I first knew Lagos, the east mole had just been begun, but now it runs nearly a mile out to sea.

From off this mole I have hooked many large fish, but never succeeded in landing the biggest, on account of their immense strength, and the heavy swell that rolls in. It is extremely difficult to get a boat to fish from. The native canoes are ill adapted for the purpose, being too cranky to follow a fish in heavy water, and the native fishermen resent Europeans fishing, looking on it as an interference with their trade, and as they are well-to-do and independent, it is not easy even to obtain from them, at double or treble the market price, the live-bait necessary to catch the big fish.

The best bait are gray mullet, averaging about half a pound, which come in on the tide in large shoals, and are pursued by numbers of barracouta (*Sphyræna*), voracious fishes not unlike a pike, but with far more formidable teeth. The largest I have killed was just under 5 feet long, but they grow to at least 8 feet. Besides these there is the *Polynemus*, almost identical with the Indian bahmeen, or Bombay salmon, which grows to 4 feet long and a weight of 50 pounds, the great horse mackerels (*Caranx* and *Argyrius*), the former attaining a weight of 100 pounds, and the tarpon. The last I believe, has not yet been accepted by naturalists as a West African fish, no specimen having been brought to Europe from the coast, but I have seen and handled them caught by natives in nets, up to 4 1-2 feet long, and have seen some in the water of far greater size than a stuffed tarpon of 180 pounds, which I examined in London. I had long known of their existence in Lagos, but could never find where they fed till 10 days before I left the country or the last time, when they began to appear along the mole, which had then reached out some 1200 yards beyond high-water mark, and every evening numbers of enormous fish used to come rolling on top of the water in chase of the mullets. Unfortunately, I had only a few days before broken my big rod, and there was not another in Lagos fit for such heavy work, so I could only watch the tarpon sadly and think of what might have been.

The tackle I used for these various big fish consisted of a single very large hook, a twisted wire trace 2 feet long, with two large swivels, 250 yards of 24 thread "cuttyhunk," the best sea line ever made for the tropics, and a 5 1-2 inch sea reel, the working parts made of the hardest phosphor bronze. Steel rusts at once in these climates, and a few big fish will utterly demoralize the so-called "gunmetal," but phosphor bronze will stand almost as much wear as steel, and will not rust. My rod was a powerful greenheart, but for this work a split cane of the best quality would be better. It should have an agate top ring and large snake or bridge rings.—The Field, London.

# LITTLE LET-UP AT T WHARF

## Market Boats Bring Most of the Fares to Big Fish Mart Today.

It was a little quieter at T wharf this morning than it has been for the preceding days of the week, although there were 14 fares at the dock this morning to supply the day's trade, 12 of which are shore fares.

The steam trawlers *Swell* and *Crest* had the largest hauls, the former with 60,000 pounds and the latter 28,000 pounds. The shore boats brought in some fair sized trips of haddock and cod, which sold at average prices.

Haddock was quoted at \$2.50 to \$3.50 a hundred weight, large cod, \$3 to \$4.50, market cod, \$2 to \$2.50, hake, \$4 to \$6.25, pollock, \$2 to \$2.50 and cusk, \$1.25.

### Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are:  
Str. *Swell*, 50,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 500 lemon sole.  
Str. *Crest*, 28,000 haddock, 500 cod, 3000 lemon sole.  
Sch. *Jeanette*, 5500 haddock, 500 cod.  
Sch. *Jorgina*, 7500 haddock, 1000 cod.  
Sch. *Mary F. Sears*, 5000 haddock, 300 cod, 1500 hake.  
Sch. *Olive F. Hutchings*, 4000 haddock, 500 cod, 1000 pollock.  
Sch. *Flavilla*, 3000 haddock, 600 cod, 1000 pollock.  
Sch. *M. Madeline*, 300 haddock, 4600 cod.  
Sch. *Matthew S. Greer*, 2000 haddock, 1100 cod, 3000 hake.  
Sch. *Sabine*, 3600 cod.  
Sch. *Stranger*, 4000 haddock, 1400 cod, 500 hake, 2500 pollock.  
Sch. *Harriett*, 5500 haddock, 900 cod, 2000 pollock.  
Sch. *Eva and Mildred*, 7500 haddock, 800 cod, 1200 pollock.  
Sch. *W. M. Goodspeed*, 7500 haddock, 800 cod, 1000 hake.  
Haddock, \$2.50 to \$3.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$3 to \$4.50; market cod, \$2 to \$2.50; hake, \$4 to \$6.25; pollock, \$2 to \$2.50; cusk, \$1.25.

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### Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. *Georgia* arrived at Yarmouth Monday last.  
Schs. *Virginia*, *Ethel B. Penny*, *Pontiac* and *Gladys* and *Nellie* arrived at Liverpool Monday last and cleared for fishing.

### Vessel Sold.

Sch. *Ellen C. Burke*, 60.32 tons net registered, built at Essex in 1902 and owned by the Eastern Fisheries Company of Boston has been sold to C. W. Mann of Galveston, Texas.

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### Keeping Them Guessing.

The halibut situation is keeping the wholesalers in Fulton Fish Market, New York, a-guessing, says the *Fishing Gazette*. There were two cars during the last week and *Chesebro Brothers* have advices of a car scheduled to reach the firm on yesterday.

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# NEWS OF THE PROVINCES.

A large fish entirely unknown to the local fishermen was left by the falling tide at Green Harbor, Shelburne County recently. After a strenuous battle it was killed and brought ashore. The fish was about 20 feet long and as large around as a barrel. Its head which was somewhat the shape of an alligator's, measured almost three feet from the tip of its nose to its eyes. The presence of a "blow hole" would indicate that it was one of the smaller species of whale.

# ANOTHER BILL NOW AIMED AT TORCHERS

State House, Boston, January 30.—Robert Robinson of Beverly is the petitioner for legislation making it unlawful for any person to display torches or other lights designated or used for the purpose of taking herring or other fish in any of the waters of the commonwealth.

A provision is made, however, that

the commissioners on fisheries and game may grant permits for the display of torches or other light for the above named purposes, with such restrictions as in their judgment will prevent the same from constituting a nuisance.

The bill has been referred to the committee on fisheries and game for a hearing. Senator C. Augustus Norwood of Hamilton is chairman of the committee.

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# FISHERMEN WHO WON'T GO FISHING

## French Sardine Industry Paralyzed by Obstinate Strike.

On the first of January, 116 of the sardine tinning establishments in Brittany shut down their works, for want of fish to tin, says a writer in the *Boston Transcript*. The 20 establishments which remain open will be shut down at an early date, already fixed. The great fishing industry of Brittany is dead, killed by the fishermen themselves, who, attempting to keep up the price of fish, unwisely kept down the supplies.

The Bretons have been sardine fishers from time immemorial. The importance of their fishing industry grew with the development of the tinning industry. In 1887 it was estimated that sardine fishing off the oceanic coasts of France gave rise, annually, to commercial transactions of the value of a hundred and fifty million francs, and occupied from a hundred and twenty thousand to a hundred and fifty thousand people. About this time competition sprang up, and while the French remained the best, the immense output of cheaper, inferior, sardines from other countries robbed the French trade of much of its importance.

### Scope of the Brittany Industry.

About 11 years ago the hauls made by the Breton fishermen began to fall off, and the want of fish, added to the foreign competition, caused a crisis which lasted to the end. In 1900, 37 million kilos and in 1901, 39 million kilos of sardines were tinned in that province fell to eight million kilos, and the quantity has continued to fall there ever since, while the output of the tanners in every other country rose. Spain and Portugal place every year from 1,200,000 to 1,800,000 cases on the market (each case contains a hundred tins); Norway, several hundred thousands of cases of sprats, called sardines; the United States great quantities of tins of small herrings, called domestic sardines; Japan has also a great tinning industry. Compared with the output of these countries the Breton industry seems insignificant. When in full work the factories of Brittany could turn out no more than 900,000 cases a year. The want of fish has of late reduced their

output to 150,000 cases. "It is not even a hospital we are closing, it is a cemetery," said one of the Breton tanners the day the factories shut down.

### Fishers Who Won't Materialize.

The gravity of the crisis is due to the fact that the Bretons, masters of a sterile soil, depend largely for their existence on these fisheries. All the industries of Brittany are affected by the sardine trade. Including the fishermen 50,000 people are thrown completely out of work by the closing of the factories; the number of those indirectly affected is far larger.

### Still Plenty of Fish.

It is a pretence to say the fish has deserted the Breton coast. At various periods sardines ceased to be found off that coast. Their disappearance was attributed to a hundred different reasons, from deviations of the Gulf Stream to the passage of steamships. The fact seems proved that the sardine is a semi-torpid fish which seeks warm or tepid waters; during the winter it lies on the bed of the ocean, rising towards the surface for food when the currents become less cold in late spring, summer, and part of autumn, disappearing into the deep sea even during these periods if cold currents come, or cold winds blow off the land. The Breton fishermen have from time immemorial, sought only to take the fish which rose to the surface. Their nets, the famous filets bleus, are rude and antiquated engines, dear to them, both from old association and because of their cheapness. Why, they ask, should they pay four hundred francs for a new-fangled machine when they can get a net such as their fathers used for 60 francs? They ignore the fact that their nets wear out rapidly, and that not one, but several nets with different meshes are necessary for them. The old method persisted in by the Breton fishermen, was, having sunk the nets, to cast bait on the sea over them, and when the sardines had risen to the bait to raise the nets. By this primitive method, in the phrase of the disgusted tinner, "they caught none but the fish that wanted to be caught"—in other words those that did not swim away while the nets were being drawn up. The small hauls obtained with the nets satisfied the majority of the fish-