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FIRST OFF-SHORE SINCE FRIDAY

Sch. Norma in Today Breaks Nearly a Week Stretch of Blankness.

The first off shore arrival here since last Friday morning is sch. Norma which put in an appearance here this forenoon from the eastward with a deck handling fare of 22,000 pounds of salt cod and 1700 weight of fresh halibut. The halibut fare sold to the American Halibut Company at 24½ cents a pound for white and 13 cents for grays.

On account of the heavy gale and sea outside, only a few of the gill netters were out yesterday. The receipts of the day were less than 10,000 pounds but those crafts that were fortunate enough to lift were well rewarded by the topnotch prices that prevail in the Boston market this morning.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Str. Mary L., gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Robert and Edwin, gill netting, 1400 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Gertrude T., gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Medomak, gill netting, 1700 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Mary F. Ruth, gill netting, 1700 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Nomad, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Sunflower, gill netting, 800 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Norma, eastern deck handling, 22,000 lbs. salt cod, 1700 lbs. halibut.

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 24 1-2c per lb. for white; 13c for gray.
Newfoundland frozen herring, \$2.75 per cwt.

How Seals Cut Steps.

How seals cut steps in the perpendicular sides of ice cakes, in order to rise from the water for the purpose of breathing, was recorded by members of Captain Scott's Antarctic expedition with the aid of a moving-picture machine. It was discovered that the seals, which formerly were supposed to leave the water by leaping, actually cut steps in the slippery surface with the great canine or eye teeth. As soon as the teeth are placed in position, the head is moved rapidly from side to side until the ice has been cut away sufficiently to afford a footing for the front flippers of the animal. Each step has to be laboriously cut after this fashion until the body is far enough out of the water to be thrust up the rest of the way by a kick of the hind flippers.

Finding the Age of Fishes.

Until within recent years there had been ascertained no trustworthy way of finding out the age of fish. It has been shown that mere size does not indicate the age. Reibish Heincke and others have discovered that many of the bones, scales and otoliths of fishes have annual age-rings, resembling those in tree trunks, and by means of these Wallace and others have determined the rate of growth of plaice, showing that some specimens attain the age of 25, or even as much as 29 years. Age can now be correlated with size and weight, although it appears that the sexes have a different rate of growth.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Romance, Capt. Oscar Lyons, was at Shelburne, N. S., Monday and cleared for fishing.

Schs. Virginia, Pontiac, Valerie and Alice were at Liverpool Monday and cleared.

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Queer Fish.

Tuesday there was on exhibition in Savannah, Ga., a fish which attracted a large crowd. All sorts of guesses were made in an effort to classify it. T. S. Heyward, the owner classed it, and stuck to his decision, despite the many shakings of heads. He declared it to be an ichthyosaurus, which is supposed to have been extinct for 4,000 years, and which, according to Mr. Heyward, is amphibious. Old fishermen declare the fish to be a freshwater sturgeon. The fish was shot on Pennyworth Island and was some distance from the water when killed. It was four feet long and had the snout and sucker of a sturgeon. Its eyes were large, and the snout a brilliant red. Large scales with the point standing from the back run down its spine, resembling the scales of an alligator. The back slopes and makes an abrupt turn downward, almost squaring the side of the fish. There are two large fins just back of the gills, one on the back just above the tail, and the tail is wide and well shaped. According to Mr. Heyward, three well-known gentlemen, two of them captains, went to the island fishing, and this sturgeon, or ichthyosaurus, or whatever it may be, is their catch. Mr. Heyward had the fish sent home and declares he intends eating it.

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SOME FIRST THINGS.

Oyster-Shell Hinge, Heart is Pump, and Lobster Claw Pincers.

The first perfect hinge was probably that of the oyster. The oyster has its two shells joined together by a hinge as good as any found in any hardware shop of the country, says St. Nicholas.

The first pump ever invented was the heart of a man or animal, and it is today one of the most perfect pumps in use. Engineers agree that its principles of construction for the highest efficiency are correct, and that it is not surpassed by any pump invented by man. For its size and work, it is the greatest pump of the age.

The lobster's claw is said to be the original gas-fitter's pincers. There are many other pincer-carrying animals,

WILL MAKE A SMALL FORTUNE

But One Craft at T Wharf Today—Dealers Wild for Fish—Top Notch Prices

The arrival of three off shore fares and the gill netting shipments from this port is all that saved T wharf fresh fish dealers from a fish famine today.

Fish have been mighty scarce in the Boston market the past few days, the bad weather outside having hampered the shore fleet upon which the market depends for a part of its supply from day to day. Yesterday afternoon, the steam trawler Surf and sch. Frances P. Mesquita of this port, came to the rescue with good-sized fares, the former having 55,000 haddock and 3000 cod, and the latter 24,000 haddock, 14,000 cod and 1000 pollock.

The only new arrival this morning was sch. Gertrude DeCosta, her haul being for 65,000 pounds haddock, 1500 cod, 300 cusk and 1000 pollock. As a result of the fancy prices, all three crafts will realize a nice stock and share.

Haddock sold at \$4 to \$8 a hundred pounds, large cod, \$8 to \$9, market cod, \$5 to \$6, hake, \$4 to \$7, and pollock, \$2.50 to \$5.

T wharf dealers yesterday morning paid for steak cod the highest price, so far as is known, ever paid for that variety of groundfish, while for the other varieties they were forced to give prices, which, if not record ones, were so near to them that old-timers in the business couldn't remember any higher ones. Right through the list from haddock to cusk groundfish sold at prices seldom heard of around T wharf.

Haddock, normal around 4 a hundred weight, sold from vessel at twice that figure, and wholesaled at \$10.75 a hundredweight. Pollock, normal around \$3.50, sold readily at the wholesale price of \$8 a hundredweight, and even cusk, which rarely varies from the standard price of \$3.50, jumped to \$5.50 a hundredweight.

Steak cod sold at the almost unbelievable figure of \$19.50 per hundredweight at wholesale. At retail the fish is probably worth about 25 cents a pound, if not more.

Market cod was selling at \$9.25 a hundredweight, instead of its normal \$4; large hake was bringing \$8.75, instead of \$4.50, and small hake, which in good seasons sells as low as \$1.50, and usually at \$2.50, went rapidly at \$5.75 a hundredweight.

Yesterday morning's price was not a record for haddock, but it was the next thing to it. And never before has steak cod been known to wholesale at such a figure as it did yesterday. It has frequently been known to sell as low as \$2.75 and \$3 a hundredweight, while haddock has sold as low as one cent a pound.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Str. Surf, 55,000 haddock, 3000 cod, Sch. Frances P. Mesquita, 24,000 haddock, 14,000 cod, 1000 pollock.

Sch. Gertrude T. DeCosta, 65,000 haddock, 1500 cod, 1500 hake, 300 cusk, 1000 pollock.

Haddock, \$4 to \$8 per cwt.; large cod, \$8 to \$9; market cod, \$5 to \$6; hake, \$4 to \$7; pollock, \$2.50 to \$5.

SOLD HIS TRIP ON SEALED BIDS

Capt. Maurice Lube, commanding the fishing sch. George H. Lube, on arriving at one of the Portland fish wharves Wednesday introduced an entirely new wrinkle when instead of allowing the fish dealers to bid for his fare until the highest possible figure was reached he visited each dealer and requested his top figures in writing and sealed. This action, of course, brought the same results as the other form of bidding only it did not take so much time. The firm of F. S. Willard Co. offered the best prices and the whole fare, about \$600

fish, went to them. The prices paid could not be obtained from the successful concern, but as they topped these prices offered at Commercial wharf it is apparent that the price of fish will be higher than ever until catches become more frequent: large cod, \$7; market cod, \$5; haddock, \$6; large hake, \$7; medium hake, \$4.25; cusk, \$3.25; pollock, \$5; scrod, \$1.50.

It is apparent from these figures that the reported break in the fish famine that has been prevailing in Portland for the past six weeks is by no means broken and from all present indications will not be broken until more favorable weather prevails outside to allow the fishermen a chance to ply their trade.

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HAULED UP AT NORTH SIDNEY

Crew of Sch. Jennie B. Hodgdon Arrive Home—Have Had a Hard Trip.

The sch. Jennie B. Hodgdon which sailed some time ago for Bay of Islands, N. F., to load herring and after a hard struggle with the heavy weather was unable to reach her destination, returned to Sydney for repairs, and afterwards went to Port au Basques, N. F., was unable to secure a cargo at that place and has again returned to North Sydney where she has been stripped and laid up for the balance of the winter.

It was the intention to have loaded her at Cape Breton with codfish, but the weather was so rough at the outports that it had to be abandoned.

The crew arrived home yesterday having come overland by train.

ACTUAL WEIGHTS ON CURED FISH

Will Be Demanded by Common Carriers on and After March 15.

The New York market is firm and steady, with a moderate jobbing call, according to the Fishing Gazette. The near approach of Lent has not brought much additional activity, but the feeling is that the market will gain more strength later on.

At St. John's the prices for codfish in the various grades stand just where they did when we last published, says the "Trade Review." The prices are practically nominal, for there is no fish in the hands of the fishermen at present. A few small lots from outport planters or merchants find their way in from day to day, but they are not of sufficient size to effect the market one way or the other. The features of the foreign markets are slow consumption, both in Europe and South America, with a slight drop in price in Brazil. In regard to the weights on cured fish shipments the secretary of the New England Freight Association writes: "After a careful investigation of the subject it is apparent that the present schedule of estimated weights on cured fish is inaccurate, and to undertake to establish weights on pickled fish is inexpedient. It has been decided, therefore, that effective March 15, 1913, the present schedule of estimated weights will be cancelled; on and after that date actual weights to apply on all shipments of cured fish from Boston, Gloucester and other coast points."

Portland Fishing Notes.

The U. S. fish commission steamer Gannet arrived in port Wednesday, the first time she has been here for some days. The rough weather of the past fortnight has sadly interfered with the operations of the steamer in securing seed lobsters, but more favorable conditions are now looked for.

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BLEW HEAVILY ALONG SHORE

And the Gill Netters Had a Hard Job Lifting Their Nets.

No arrivals are reported here since yesterday outside of the gill netters which landed about 35,000 pounds of mixed fish yesterday afternoon.

While yesterday had every appearance of an ideal day for fishing from the landsman's point of view, the boats found it blowing quite a stiff breeze outside and rough. Several crafts that managed to lift their nets brought in some good-sized fares and will consequently realize a nice profit from the morning's high prices that were paid on shore fish.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Robert and Edwin, gill netting, 600 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Seven Brothers, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 1400 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Eagle, gill netting, 300 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Margaret D., gill netting, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. F. S. Willard, gill netting, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Enterrise, gill netting, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Venture, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Philomena, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. George E. Fisher, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Gertrude T., gill netting, 4500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Medomak, gill netting, 1100 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Lorena, gill netting, 400 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Mary F. Ruth, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Massachusetts, salt and fresh trawling.

Sch. Morning Star, halibuting.

Sch. A. Platt Andrew, haddocking.

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 24 1-2c per lb. for white; 13c for gray.

Newfoundland frozen herring, \$2.75 per cwt.

Through Capt. Foley's Agency.

The sale of schs. Mina Swim and Joseph P. Johnson, which were recently sold to Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland parties, was effected through the agency of Capt. William Foley.

Withdrawn His Name.

Because of opposition in the Governor's Council to his appointment as commissioner of sea and shore fisheries of Maine, Judge E. E. Chase of Bluehill has had his name withdrawn.

Pacific Cod Fare at San Francisco.

Sch. Galilee, the first fare of the year has arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Pirate Cove, Alaska with 427 tons of pickle cured codfish for the Union Fish Company.

Will Load for Here.

Sch. Annie F. Kimball, Capt. White-more sailed from Portland for Southwest Harbor Wednesday where she will probably load with salt fish for this port.

First Lunenburg Banker Away.

The Lunenburg, N. S., sch. J. B. Young, Capt. Albert Himmelman, is the first of the fleet of fishermen from that provincial port to get underway for the early spring codfishery. She has taken on salt and was ready to sail Tuesday last for the off shore fishing grounds.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Schs. Pontiac and Francis J. O'Hara, Jr., arrived at Liverpool, Tuesday last, and cleared for fishing.

Sch. Ingomar, Capt. Horace Wildes, was in at Mosher's Harbor last Sunday.

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OTTER TRAWLING IS DESCRIBED

The following description of the trawl fishing and appliances as in use by the Grimsby fleet was given recently at Vancouver, B. C., by an officer of a recently arrived trawler.

Two sets of trawls are carried by each trawler, but only one is used at a time, the other being held in case the nets of the regular trawl are broken. On each side of the craft both fore and aft are the galises, iron arrangements which are bolted to the deck and which extended upright and an angle which brings the ends over the ship's bulwarks. From the galis is suspended the otta boards, to which the nets are fixed. To each trawl there are two otta boards, which are about eight feet long and four or five feet wide, made of wooden planks and reinforced with iron bars. At the bottom of the boards are what is known as the shoes, which are composed of heavy iron plating. The shoes act similar to the keel of a yacht, and keep the otta board erect when the trawl is out.

As soon as all the gear is set in place the trawler is stopped and the order: "Lower away the trawl" is given. The trawl sinks rapidly and owing to the weight of the shoes of the otta boards, and when at 15 fathoms it is held. From the bridge then comes the order "Shoot Away" and the trawl is let go. The trawler then steams slowly away and the inch and a half cable to which the net is fastened spins off the drum of the big winch forward until about 175 fathoms has been run off, when the speed of the trawler is checked. The cable is then made fast on the after quarter, the net is on the bottom and the trawler is ready for fish.

The trawl, it may be explained, is about 130 feet long and the width of the otta boards about five feet. The trawl consists of the wings, belly and batening, flopper and cod. The flopper is a very small mesh netting and prevents the fish from getting out of the net.

After steaming for about two hours with the nets down the trawler is stopped and the order given, "Let go aft." The fastenings of the cable parted, the otta boards are heaved up to the galises and the fore and aft quarter ropes of the trawl hauled up. All hands set to hauling in the net, till it becomes too heavy, when rope brackets are placed around the cod end and the net is heaved up forward. While the trawl is suspended it is the duty of the second mate to untie the cod end, when the fish tumble out on deck all alive and kicking. The fish are then gutted, washed and placed in the fish locker, among the ice.

Having Bad Weather.

The J. W. Trefethen Company of Portland have received a letter from Capt. Schofield of the Portland fishing schooner Angie B. Watson, which started eastward on a cruise about three weeks since. The letter was written three days ago at Yarmouth, N. S., where the schooner had put in through stress of weather, having lost 20 tubs of gear. Bad weather had been encountered most of the trip, only about 10,000 pounds of fish having been secured. The captain reports having bait enough for three days' more fishing, after which the schooner would come home.

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THE DOGFISH AND OUR FISHERIES

Subject of Timely Editorial in a Portland Paper.

The Portland Express and Advertiser says editorially: "A set of resolutions favoring the payment to the fishermen of a bounty on dogfish and recommending the establishment of rendering works by the government was sent last week to a representative at Augusta to be presented in proper form."

It would not cost the state anything to pay a little official attention to this subject for it was the wish of the originators of the resolutions that they also be adopted by the legislatures of the other North Atlantic coast states. It is, of course, difficult to make representatives from inland sections realize the importance of our fisheries and the menaces which threaten them.

Canada has long since demonstrated the feasibility of government rendering works and a bounty to the fishermen. The fertilizer manufactured from dogfish has been pronounced far superior to any chemical fertilizer and it can be sold to the farmers for practically one-half the cost of the latter. If the farmers realized that this measure means as much to them as it does to the fishermen the results sought would soon be brought about. There must be some enlightenment furnished our agriculturists, however, before they wax enthusiastic as is evident from a recent attempt to talk dogfish bounty and rendering works before a Sanford audience. "What is a dogfish?" was the almost general query from those assembled! This is discouraging but merely illustrates the necessity for a campaign of education.

Last Saturday's Boston Transcript has a long special article devoted to the dogfish problem and suggests a bounty and government rendering works as the only real solution. The estimated annual damage to the gear of the Massachusetts fishermen is \$150,817.50. A Long Island fisherman, captain of a well known Casco Bay fishing schooner, has just returned from a trip to Boston and other Massachusetts ports. He says that at Boston, Gloucester and along the Cape Cod shores there are tied up this winter approximately 150 fishing schooners that generally are kept in commission. He says our fishermen are getting discouraged because of the disinterestedness of the government in helping them overcome the obstacles with which they must now contend. From various sources of information it is learned that this is an absolutely true statement.

There are many explanations for these idle 150 sail. Our younger generation cannot endure the hardships endured by their fathers and grandfathers. Many of them have gone South this winter to engage in the Gulf of Mexico fisheries. They earn more money and do not have to work so hard as in the North Atlantic waters. Still another body of former New England fishermen have gone to what we call the northwestern coast engaging in the halibut, salmon and cod fisheries out of Seattle. Then, again, others, especially a large contingent from Gloucester have gone to the Canadian fisheries sailing out of Lunenburg in the 50 new vessels that were recently built there. A majority

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Brought in a Shad.

Steamer Margaret D., Capt. John Dahmar, brought in a shad yesterday which was lifted in the nets on the shoal grounds of Thatcher's. The fish was lean and poor as they generally are this time of the year, and weighed about three pounds. It was shipped to Atwood & Company, fish dealers, at T wharf Boston.

Weeks' Catch at T Wharf.

Fresh fish arrivals at T wharf, Boston, last week totalled 1,041,590 pounds from 36 arrivals against 831,450 pounds from 59 arrivals for the same period in 1912.

of these former Gloucestermen originally came from the Provinces and this new fleet gives them an opportunity to get back nearer their own people. They know the tricks of the fishing trade and therefore their services are at a premium. Thus the Canadian fisheries profit at the expense of our own. Canada, too, allows the fishermen a bounty and a market for dogfish so this evil is greatly minimized when compared with the conditions in United States waters.

Another thing our fishermen complain at, and not without some cause, is the fact that each year the government makes it cost them more to fish and yet does nothing for them to offset the added expense. Uncle Sam does not seem inclined to help in the fight against the dogfish, sharks and finback whales which are running the fisheries and making it next to impossible for the fisherman to maintain his trawls and other gear during certain months of the year. On the other hand he does not hesitate to take prompt action that makes them equip their boats with expensive lighting outfits, life preservers, whistles; bells; horns; etc., failure to comply with his requirements meaning a heavy fine and confiscation of the boat in lieu of payment.

There is no truth in the statement sent out from Gloucester that that port is losing its halibut fisheries to Portland. Not but Portland would be glad of encouraging indications of a growing fish business. The reason Gloucester is not getting its former trips of halibut is the same that applies here. There are no halibut being landed anywhere; that is in other than negligible quantities. Some of the true reasons for the slack times in the New England fisheries have been stated here. It will be a pity if this matter is allowed to go by default for another two years. "Our declining fisheries" is not an idle dream, and, according to the best authorities their salvation lies in our own hands. Shall we keep on feeding the shark and whale families who are gradually putting our fishermen out of business?

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BUEMA LOOKED VERY LONESOME

Little Shore Boat the Only Craft at T Wharf Since Yesterday Morning.

T wharf could have closed this morning early as far as the receipts of fish was concerned, for there was but one lone arrival from the shore since yesterday's report.

Sch. Buema, the only fare, had 7100 pounds of mixed fish which sold at top-notch prices which have been paid for shore fish the past few days.

Several of the fleet are due from the eastward the first of the week which will relieve the short supply, while with good weather, the shore boats and gill netters should be heard from.

Haddock prices this morning were \$7.50 to \$7.75 a hundred pounds; large cod, \$8, market cod, \$5 to \$5.50; hake, \$3.50 to \$4.50; and pollock \$4 to \$5.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Sch. Buema, 6000 haddock, 400 cod, 500 cusk, 200 pollock.

Haddock, \$7.50 to \$7.75 per cwt.; large cod, \$8; market cod, \$5 to \$5.50; hake, \$3.50 to \$4.50; pollock, \$4 to \$5.