

Aug. 21

LOOKS BETTER ON THE LABRADOR

Says the St. John's, N. F., Trade Review: News reached town recently to the effect that the fishery has looked up a bit in the upper or stationers' section of Labrador. Better accounts have also come from the Straits. The trap voyage appears to be over, and the fish being taken are caught with hook-and-line, jigger and cod nets. The change for the better comes from the moving off of the ice, which hung along the shore six weeks later than usual this season. As a matter of fact, there has been a good deal of fish on the Labrador coast for some weeks, but small "clumpers" of ice have prevented trapping.

During the week there has been a slight improvement in many places North on the Newfoundland Coast, and if present fine weather continues the prospect will not be as black, by any means, as it looked at the beginning of the month. The greatest drawback at present is the scarcity of squids, which are badly needed for bait. It is noticeable this season that many men, who usually deserted the voyage at the close-down of trapping, are holding on this year, in the belief that the catch on the squid scull is going to be a fair one, even if it is late.

Herewith we give the report of the catches of fish in the various districts of the Island, up to date of August 1, and corresponding date last year. As there was no report from Fogo last year, we leave out that District in the general summary, so that a fairer idea of the relative positions of the two years may be obtained. With Fogo (6,000 qtls. this year) left out then we find that the aggregate catches are: For 1913, 267,945; for 1914, 216,140 qtls. These figures show a smaller catch this year by 51,805 qtls.

The following are the returns in detail:

	1914.	1913.
Placentia and St. Mary's	30,965	43,170
Fortune Bay	74,715	66,800
St. George's	27,470	32,040
St. Barbe	30,560	21,115
St. George's	4,745	2,265
St. Willingate	9,780	15,840
Fogo	1,165	10,140
Novavista	6,000	Not rpt.
St. Anthony	5,750	16,440
Bay de Verde	4,290	11,610
Carbonear	4,290	11,610
Harbor Grace	1,410	1,230
Port de Grave	3,325	4,390
Harbor Main	465	330
St. John's	135	1,160
St. John's	6,865	14,000
St. John's	4,500	15,600

St. John's Market Affected.
Shrewd business men are observing that the late fishing season this year is without its advantages, says the St. John's, N. F., Trade Review. Other years, at the middle of August, thousands of quintals of cured, new fish would be pouring into the market at this time. If we had the new fish ready now, fishermen affected by the present condition of affairs would be scrambling over each other to market their goods, and the result would be

Aug. 21

the lowest prices seen in the country for many years. Fortunately, there is not much fish ready, and, therefore, there is no undue pressure on the merchants of St. John's who buy the fish.

Meanwhile, of course, there is some new fish coming in, either to be credited to the old accounts, or to be turned into cash to purchase early fall supplies. This is being taken in at \$4.50 to \$5 a quintal, with promise of the rise if normal conditions are restored later in the season. Nobody seems keen to buy for cash, even at these figures, the most of the goods going to the credit of spring outfit accounts. Nobody says that fish is not as valuable today as it was a month ago, but it simply can't be marketed at present, and nobody knows how long it will be before we can get safe access to South America or Southern Europe again.

FOUR SEINERS MADE CATCHES

Four of the fleet of steamers made some hauls of mackerel again yesterday off Cape Cod, landing 61,000 pounds at Boston this morning.

Among them is steamer Margaret J. with 11,000 pounds, her second trip this week. Steamer Scout has 15,000 pounds; steamer Nashawena, 20,000 pounds; steamer Venture, 15,000 pounds.

Wholesale dealers were paying four and one-half to six and one-half cents a pound for them this morning.

The salt mackerel fare of sch. Saladin, consisting of 282 barrels, sold to the Gloucester Mackerel Company for the lump sum of \$4400.

Aug. 22.

Portland Fish News.

Bluebacks were being landed Wednesday in great quantities at the two cold storage plants on Central wharf. The steamer Alice took out 60 barrels in addition to some 1500 pounds of mackerel, while the sloops Isabel Parsons, Nellie R. Pantooset, and several others were in with good sized fares. Quite a lot of mackerel were also landed, the fish being reported fairly plenty off Cod Ledge. One of the vessels coming in Wednesday, the sloop Marguerite McKenzie, had in addition to other fish, four large swordfish, three of them taken off Jeffries, while the fourth was captured within sight of Old Orchard Beach, a most unusual locality for that species of fish.

Two more swordfishermen were heard from Wednesday, the Mertis H. Perry arriving here after leaving 38 fish at Boston the day before, while the Lochinvar went in there Wednesday with 40 fish, both getting good prices for their catch. Both of these vessels have been fishing on the northern edge of Georges, and the skippers complain of almost constant fog while on the Banks. Although in point of numbers the schooners of the local fleet have not landed as many swordfish this season as last better prices have been realized, and it is believed there will be little difference at the close of the season.

Aug. 22

BROUGHT BIG CATCH TO SPLIT

Arrivals here since yesterday consist mostly of fresh fish, sch. Harriett bringing down 120,000 pounds, her entire fare, while schs. E. C. Hussey and Good Luck, drifting, brought down 35,000 pounds and 20,000 pounds left over from yesterday's market.

Sch. Stiletto arrived here during the forenoon from Portland having discharged her half fare of 15,000 pounds there. She brought over 35,000 pounds fresh fish and 15,000 pounds salt cod, which will be taken out by W. H. Jordan & Company, her owners.

Other arrivals today were schs. Alert, seining, 50 barrels salt mackerel; Helen G. Wells, salt drifting, 40,000 pounds salt cod.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:
Str. Independence II., seining, 25,000 lbs. small fresh mackerel.
Sch. E. C. Hussey, via Boston, 35,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Good Luck, via Boston, 20,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Alert, seining, 50 bbls. salt mackerel.
Sch. Harriett, via Boston, 120,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Helen G. Wells, salt drifting, 40,000 lbs. salt cod.
Sch. Stiletto, via Portland, 35,000 lbs. fresh fish, 15,000 lbs. salt cod.
Steamer Bethulia, seining, 20 barrels salt mackerel.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Fannie E. Prescott, halibuting.
Sch. Elk, halibuting.
Sch. Emily Sears, haddocking.
Sch. Veda M. McKown, seining.
Steamer Quoddy, seining.
Sch. Aspinet, shacking.
Br. sch. Calavera, Pubnico, N. S.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large \$5 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, \$3.00.
Georges halibut, codfish, large, \$5; medium, \$4.25.
Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.25; medium, \$3.75; snappers, \$3.
Salt trawl bank codfish, large, \$4; medium, \$3.50.
Salt drift codfish, large, \$4.50; medium, \$4.
Cush, large, \$3; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.50.
Flitcher halibut, 8 1-2c, 6c and 3c per lb.
Salt medium mackerel, \$17 per bbl.

Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices:
Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt.
Western cod, large, \$2.40; medium, \$2; snappers, 75c.
Eastern cod, large, \$2.15; medium, \$1.85; snappers, 75c.
Drift cod, large, \$2.40; medium, \$2.
All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than above.
Hake, \$1.30.
Cusk, large, \$1.65; medium, \$1.20; snappers, 50c.
Pollock, \$1.
Small pollock, 60c per bbl.
Fresh halibut 8 1-2c per lb. for white 6 1-2c for gray.

Aug. 22 135

Large shore herring, \$3 per bbl. bait; \$2 t freezer; \$1.75 to salt.
Fresh mackerel, 25c each for large 18c for medium, 5c per lb. for tinker.
Fresh shad, \$2.50 per bbl.
Fresh halibut, 9c per lb. for white 7c for small gray and 5c for large gray.
Whiting, 60c per bbl.

Arrivals at Newburyport.

A quantity of fresh mackerel was brought into Newburyport Thursday and landed at the Consumers Fresh Fish Company:

Alice, 150 mackerel and 16 barrels bluebacks; Gertrude, 1300 mackerel; Joppaite, 1000 mackerel; Flatboat, 400 mackerel, 2 barrels Spanish mackerel; Beatrice E., 2700 mackerel; Lydia, 1300 mackerel, 4 barrels bluebacks; Langley, 6 barrels of bluebacks, 7 barrels of Spanish mackerel.

There were no receipts yesterday morning.

Week's Landings at Boston.

For the week ending August 22, 2,676,450 pounds of fresh fish from 50 arrivals was landed at Boston as compared with 3,267,300 pounds from 80 arrivals for the corresponding week of last year.

SHORT LIST AT THE NEW PIER

This morning's arrival list at the new fish pier was comparatively small, three groundfishermen and a swordfisherman arriving.

Steamer Long Island, beam trawling, had a small fare, while sch. Jeanette had 115,000 pounds and four swordfish. Topsail Girl had 54 swordfish, and sch. Louisa R. Sylvia, 23,000 pounds.

Wholesalers quoted \$1.45 a hundred weight for haddock, \$3.40 for large cod. Halibut sold at 12 1-2 cents and nine cents a pound and swordfish, 10 1-2 cents to 11 1-2 cents a pound.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:
Str. Long Island, 23,000 haddock, 1200 cod, 100 hake.
Sch. Jeanette, 80,000 haddock, 35,000 cod, 4 swordfish, 700 halibut.
Sch. Topsail Girl, 54 swordfish.
Sch. Louisa R. Sylvia, 7000 haddock, 7500 cod, 9000 pollock.
Haddock, \$1.45 per cwt.; large cod, \$3.40; halibut, 12 1/2c per lb. for white and 9c for gray; swordfish, 10 1/2c and 11 1/2c per lb.

Nova Scotia Bait News.

Yarmouth, August 17—150 barrels of bait at Yarmouth; 10 barrels of bait at Pubnico; none at Wedgeport and Tusket Islands.
Musquodoboit, August 17—30 barrels herring Owl's Head, 11 barrels herring Jeddore; 15 barrels herring Eastern Passage.
Barrington, August 17.—50 barrels bait Wood's Harbor; eight barrels Shag Harbor; five Clark's Harbor; 60 at Baccaro.
Sherbrooke, August 17—Eight barrels herring taken at Marie Joseph, and two barrels to a boat at Fisherman's Harbor.

Nova Scotia Bait News

L'Ardoise, August 17—Landed bait Rockdale, 12 barrels.
 Canso, August 17—Canso, 50 barrels herring, five barrels squid, no bait in cold storage; Half Island Cove, bait scarce today, 100 barrels in cold storage; Queensport, herring fair, squid scarce, herring and squid bait in cold storage; Goldboro, no bait today. No bait at Larry's River or Charles Cove; Whitehead, four barrels herring to a boat; Port Felix, 100 to 500 herring; no bait Cles Harbor.

Independence Made a Large Haul.

Steamer Independence II., Capt. Hodgkins arrived yesterday afternoon with 25,000 pounds small fresh mackerel, taken off Cape Cod. They were sold to A. Cooney & Company but most of the trip was sent to salt, the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company taking them.

The catch of salt mackerel to date is 11,582 barrels, against 3300 barrels for the same period last year.

The catch of fresh mackerel to date is 63,120 barrels as compared with 36,231 barrels in 1913, this time.

Fresh mackerel imports at Boston received to date total 6085 barrels against 10,077 barrels in 1913. Salt mackerel imports are 6839 barrels, against 3591 barrels last year.

The catch of fresh mackerel this week is 2993 barrels fresh and 1056 barrels salted; same week 1913, 1194 barrels fresh, 571 barrels salt.

The salt mackerel fare of sch. Alert, consisting of 50 barrels sold this morning at \$19 a barrel to Fred Bradley, this being an advance of \$2 over the last sales and the highest figure paid this season.

The 20 barrel fare of steamer Bethulia also sold at the same figure.

The fish are of fine quality, extra fat and were taken in Barnstable Bay.

PICKEREL FISHING.

This Fish is Much Despised in Western States.

There are lakes in western states where the pickerel is looked upon with so much scorn that those who go out expressly for bass refuse to recognize him as a legitimate part of a day's catch, and throw him back into the water, says the Springfield Republican. This, however, is certainly not the attitude of most anglers in Massachusetts. Here the pickerel holds a high and quite well deserved station in the ranks of game and table fish.

Game he certainly is if taken under proper conditions, and if he is caught in clear water and baked with good stuffing, no one who has put him to the test will snort at the edible qualities discovered. Pickerel season opened the 21st with bass season, and many good catches of this long, cleanly built speed artist will doubtless be made.

The best place to look for pickerel is in a pond or lake, and in a pond or lake the best place is one where bullrushes line the water's edge, affording him lurking places where he can dash out from behind a tangle of roots and inhale a frog, minnow or whatever food may pass his way. Perhaps it will be a spoon hook with nothing more tasteful about it than a bunch of gaudy feathers and a trio of steel barbs. In that case the good fortune is decidedly with the angler as opposed to the pickerel and long odds may be placed on the man behind the line; for however skillfully a fish may shake out a single hook he is against a much stiffer proposition when he has tried to swallow three prongs, which are usually guaranteed to hold him no matter which way he may turn.

The pickerel will take almost any bait, although, as with most game fishes, the best bait is one that is in motion and that has qualities attractive to the eye or the palate. On the whole the pickerel seems to strike more readily at things guaranteed to please the eye that at those supposed to assuage hunger. It is a commonly held theory, too, that the pickerel strikes at things which make him angry. Whether or not it "riles" him to have a brilliant lure disturb his afternoon siesta at the bottom of the pond is a question hard to settle, but whatever his motive in striking he usually puts up a good fight after being hooked.

A great failing of pickerel fishers in this state is that of taking fish which are altogether too small. A 12-inch pickerel means one more fish in the sack, but it can hardly be called a worthy catch. If all sportmen, and more particularly if those who fish without being worthy the name sportsman, would forbear to keep 12-inch pickerel and contain themselves until they catch fish weighing 1 1-2 pounds or two pounds, it would be but a short time until there would be plenty such fish to be taken. There is absolutely no good reason why such a policy should not be followed. Small pickerel are so slender and thin that no man can be very proud at having mastered them, and a larger one is so much better an opponent and goes so much farther when cooked that it is almost more than unsportsmanlike to keep the little fellows.

The pickerel is a hardy fish, too. That is proved by the fact that he persists although caught in quantities while yet so very small. Those who have enjoyed an eight or 10 minutes fight against a six or seven pound specimen of this fish would never think of spoiling a chance by keeping one that weighed but a pound. It is an idea well worth clinging to and carrying out, and will repay whatever little denial may be entailed.—Springfield Republican.

ESTES FIGHTS THE DOGFISH

Ocean Pest Has Driven Other Orrs Island Fishermen From Their Trawls.

Of all the fishermen on Orr's Island, and there are no less than 150 of them, Chester Estes, alone remains in the field fighting the dogfish, says the Portland Express & Advertiser editorially. The others have given up handline and trawl fishing, for the delectable cod, hake and haddock and are on the seiners chasing the elusive mackerel, herring and shad until their sword enemies, the scavenging sharks of the sea, shall have turned their attention to other waters. When that will be is problematical.

Up to two weeks ago the Casco Bay fishermen were all doing well, handling trawling and gill netting, the waters teemed with herring, tinker mackerel, pollock and, best of all, magnificent shad. The latter netted the fishermen \$2 a barrel at Portland and several days the industrious fishermen of this vicinity fattened their bank accounts at an astonishingly rapid rate. Emore Gilliam, son of "Uncle" Bill Gilliam, a famous mackerel "killer" who died recently at the age of 105, must have inherited much of his sire's skill. For nearly a fortnight he made remarkable hauls for a lone fisherman netting on the average 75 to 100 barrels of fine, fat shad daily. Most of them were shipped from Portland to Boston and New York.

Other fishermen, too, were doing splendidly with shad, pollock, and tinker mackerel which for the first time in many years have appeared off the Maine coast in enormous schools. Everything looked rosy for the fishermen. Then the dreaded dogfish made their appearance. Fisherman's luck indeed.

It seems that the immense schools of shad were making for the mouth of the Kennebec river, up which they ran to spawn. Intuitively the voracious dogfish divined this and, according to the fishermen, they stretched a repelling, attacking, devouring cordon from Cape Small Point to Cape Newagen, turned away from

the Kennebec by this cannibalistic horde of sea scavengers, the frightened shad were driven into the coves and reaches of Lower Casco Bay close to the shores. It was here that the fishermen made such splendid catches until the dogfish, finding that the shad were at last becoming chary of the mouth of the Kennebec, pursued them into the shallower waters.

Then too, the presence of the mackerel schools, pollock, cod, dock and hake furnished them a rare feast that they remained. The fishermen claim the great loss of this stupendous horde of dogfish usually overruns the waters of the northern Maine coast from the shore point exactly 15 miles off. Moreover the slow dogfish are hatching or spawning millions of pups in litters of from five to a dozen.

Fishermen know that any helpless fish is prey for the dogfish. That is handlining, trawling or netting, methods of fishing which snare the fish and hold him until hauled to the surface by fishermen, are now absolutely impossible. The dogfish tear the fish from the hooks, bite off the gill gangings in their voracity and die the captive fishes in the gill nets, til nothing but the skeletons remain for the hapless fisherman. For reason all Orr's Island fishermen turned their attention to seining some variety. That is, all but Chester Estes. Estes simply won't admit defeat at the mouths of the dogfish. He has a large family to support, swears he will support it with trawls. But to do so he is obliged to go 15 miles off shore each day, beyond the solid mass of dogfish, to swarm over his customary fishing grounds. There and there only he set his trawls and feel reasonably sure of finding food fish rather than these sea pests on his hook. Each day he would set his trawls little farther off shore and at miles he thought he must surely get out of the danger zone, so to speak. What was his chagrin, upon hauling a 400 hook trawl, to find 88 dogfish ranging in weight from 5 to 10 pounds, and 12 naked skeletons which had undoubtedly been cod, hake or hake originally. The next day he went off three miles farther, there for a week he has been well. But the extra amount of line and oil used by his motor covering the additional miles into the profits badly. One seems certain, if the Bureau of Fisheries ever succeeds in inducing American people to accept dogfish as a food, there will be no lack of material. And if it does not do so, nothing pretty soon there will be other fish than dogfish.

MORE EVIDENCE OF PROSPERITY

Sch. Saladin, Capt. John Matheson, of the Cunningham & Thompson fleet of seiners stocked \$4400 and the crew shared \$89.30 on her last trip.

Sch. Veda M. McKown, Capt. Lewis Carltt, of the Davis Bros. fleet of seiners, stocked \$4270 and the crew shared \$95.50 on her last trip.

Sch. Waldo L. Stream, Capt. Frank Stream, stocked \$2947 and the crew made the fine share of \$81.26 on her 18 days halibuting trip. The Stream is one of the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company fleet.

Sch. Onato, Capt. J. Henry Larkin, stocked \$3389 and the crew shared \$80 on her recent shacking trip.

Sch. Natalie Hammond, Capt. Chas. Colson, stocked \$3655 and the crew shared \$110.55 on her recent halibuting trip.

Contd above

August 24

Halibut Sales.
 The halibut fare of sch. Gov. sold Saturday afternoon to Luff Farr for nine cents per pound, white and seven cents for grays.
 The halibut fares of schs. Conroy, Avalon and Yakima, sold to the American Halibut Company for seven cents per pound for white, five cents for small grays and three cents for grays.
 The halibut fare of sch. Cavalier to the New England Fish Company the same figures.