

CANADA'S EYES ON PRICES OF FISH

Wide Margin Between Fishermen's Pay and What Public Pays.

Canadians are illustrating the uses of adversity to industrious, virile people. Instead of "taking it lying down" i. e., the hard times produced by hindrance of public works and by restriction of credits—they are active in plans and operations for making next year one of great crops.

Ontario farmers are putting fall wheat on a million more acres than were so used last year. All the prairie provinces are similarly energetic, while the maritimers are bent on supplying largely the world's probable need for "spuds" and roots.

Everywhere politicians of the various governments, federal and provincial and municipal, are inciting people to work, by precept and sometimes by example. Alberta papers report great migration to the Peace River region, now newly opened up to profitable settlement by the Grand Trunk Pacific or National Transcontinental Railway, which lately began passing trains from coast to coast.

Some effects of this opening may be important to New England, especially Gloucester and Boston, because great Pacific fisheries, off Prince Rupert and the whole northern coasts of British Columbia and Alaska, have now obtained easier access to Atlantic as well as mid-continental markets. Prince Rupert, the western terminus of the C. T. P., has an up-to-date fish-freezing plant capable of storing 7000 tons. Some 20 United States companies do similar business not far northward. Floating "freezeries" and canneries are more and more coming into use "up there."

We are promised, by "The Canadian Fisherman" (a good monthly publication lately established in Montreal), mild-cured Pacific salmon, haddock, etc., as well as fresh-frozen halibut and other fat fish galore. Regular shipments have been arriving in this region for nearly a month. Experts testify to remarkable superiority of the consignments, especially in halibut, each one coming in its own separate coating of thin ice, after travelling 3600 miles in refrigerator cars. By way of stimulating fish consumption, the Ottawa Department of Marine has issued for free circulation an excellent handbook on "Fish and how to cook it." This contains, besides recipes and general discourse on the merits of fish-food, elaborate tables comparing its value in protein and "calories" with values of various meats and cereals and vegetables. Incidentally the book, as well as "The Canadian Fisherman," sets out retail prices in Canada, cod at 10 cents a pound, bluefish, 12 cents, halibut, 18, and so on. Why such high prices? It is stated that the fishermen receive only from 1-2 to 1-3-4 cents per pound on either coast.

One can understand that the perishable nature of fish causes large expense and much care to both wholesalers and retailers, who must also pay high freights. But the difference between what fishermen get and what consumers have to pay, seems enormous. The point is reported to be receiving careful attention from experts who believe that the Ottawa Government, should stimulate better organization of fish-distribution. Not general distaste for fish, but high retail prices, cause that paucity of demand and consumption which the authorities note and deary.

Ottawa City this month began a sort of municipal apple-dealing, undertaking to supply car-loads of the fruit very cheap for cash to persons putting up the money. Some communities similarly deal in coal. Why not in fish? Surely the regular traders might be induced to co-operate in establishing such distribution, one that could probably be worked so as to give fishermen better prices and consumers far cheaper fish. Our Ottawa Government gives bonuses to ocean steamers and to various cold-storage plants, whose purpose essentially is to enable our sellers of flour, fruits, meats, fish, butter, cheese, etc., to gain a profit by providing Europeans, Asiatics, South Americans, even "Yankees" with commodities which are cheapened to them at our public's expense. Yet nothing worth mentioning is done to cheapen like commodities to our own folks.

It illustrates how, almost everywhere in the English-speaking world outside of Great Britain, the selling interest is treated paternally while the buying interest is in red and sweated. John Bull alone has got it clearly fixed in his commercially-wise head that the cheaper commodities are made for the retail buyers the more his total mercantile and manufacturing and shipping interests must prosper. It is a truism that Canadians, like United Statesers, can buy in Great Britain a great many of the staple commodities of their own countries, far cheaper than in their own cities and villages. —E. W. Thomson in the Boston Transcript.

FEWER SCALLOPS TAKEN.

Conditions Not as Promising as a Year Ago.

The end of the first week of scallop dredging, an important industry on Nantucket Island, finds conditions far less promising than last year, when the total season's shipment amounted to nearly 8000 kegs. The fact that the catch for the opening week fell materially below that for the corresponding period last year is attributed to the thick growth of eel grass on the shoals and along shore, which seriously hampered operations. The dredgers do not look for good hauls until the weather has become cold enough to kill the grass.

DRAGGERS LANDED SOME NICE FARES

But Last Night's Storm Interfered With the Mackerel Catchers.

The high wind and storm of the early evening interfered with the draggers last night. Those boats out yesterday brought in some nice fares, which were landed at this port and at Rockport and Pigeon Cove.

The receipts in detail:

Rockport.

Sloop Marguerite S. McKenzie, 2800 fresh mackerel. Sloop Wodan, 800 fresh mackerel.

Sloop On Time, 110 fresh mackerel. Sloop Hester, 41 fresh mackerel. Sloop Taguine, 42 fresh mackerel. Str. Thelma, 3000 fresh mackerel. Power dories, from 40 to 100 each, aggregating 600 fresh mackerel.

Str. Thelma did not land her fish and will keep them aboard for Monday's market.

Pigeon Cove.

Sloop William H. Clements, 1385 fresh mackerel.

Sloop Cleopatra, 900 fresh mackerel.

Sloop Minnie, 1700 fresh mackerel. Sloop Nettle, 800 fresh mackerel.

Dories aggregate 2000 fresh mackerel.

Arrivals at This Port.

Sloop Advance, 1000 fresh mackreel. Sloop Beulah Maud, 200 fresh mackerel.

Four Italian boats, aggregate 2500 fresh mackerel.

Boston.

Sloop Freedom, 5000 fresh mackerel. Sch. Mabel E. Leavitt, 4500 fresh mackerel.

Nickerson, 13000 fresh mackerel.

READY TO LAUNCH THE SOMERVILLE

Capt. Felix Hogan's new schooner Somerville, built by Arthur D. Story at Essex, is ready for the water and Mr. Story expects to launch her Monday morning at flood tide. Capt. Hogan is out on a haddocking trip in sch. Elk and will not be home for the launching. Capt. Henry M. Atwood will look after the craft in the absence of Capt. Hogan.

The new schooner is a beauty and has every indication of being a flyer. Capt. Hogan is much pleased with the craft, and will fit his new command for the fresh haddocking fishery, in which he is one of the high liners.

A new vessel is being built at Story's yard, Essex, for Ernest Cromwell & Company of Boston. The craft will be on the lines of schooner Ruth, only about three feet longer. It is understood that she will be commanded by Capt. Jethro Nickerson.

THE SITUATION AT HALIFAX N.

During the past few weeks a slight improvement has been apparent in codfish trade, a small advance in price being recorded, the Halifax Herald says. The export has improved somewhat and buying locally is brisk. Some of the Halifax fish merchants had not been buying and they have again started to lay stocks, the trade is more lively.

The prospects for the fish trade not encouraging nevertheless. Sh. Italy and Greece enter into the export will suffer much more than it has thus far, as the closing the Mediterranean would mean Newfoundland, unable to ship to the points, would flood the Halifax American markets, taking the trade Canadian fish.

Mackerel are very low at present are going on the American market, \$10 and \$11 per barrels. This last year they were worth \$20.

The Canadian mackerel always competitors with the foreign mackerel in the United States, and as the going shows, owing to those conditions, it is possible that our mackerel will find a larger demand, but so there is no indication of an improvement in this direction. One Malen Island fish man shipped 8000 barrels to Philadelphia recently on chance of selling. He sent them to Boston but there was no take and his success so far is not known.

Herring are going about as usual. There is not much trade. The average price on shore herring is low, Lunenburg being almost as much. Our shore fish are bringing ex-vessel \$3.50 per barrel and Lunenburg there are 60,000 quintals bank fish in the fishermen's hand bank fish and 20,000 bay. These held at prices that cannot be obtained and consequently there is no trade. For two years past the fish have been held in this way until spring and prices have been obtained. Last year however, a constant trade with P. Rico kept eating into the stock. This year the trade is practically dead with this market, and the outlook very much more uncertain. The fishermen holding their stock may find it difficult to get rid of later on.

Mackerel Catch and Imports.

The mackerel catch to date is 553 barrels fresh and 15,521 barrels salt. In 1913 for the same period 48,126 barrels fresh and 7809 barrels salt were brought in.

Imports of fresh mackerel received at Boston to date total 12,685 barrels fresh and 19,104 barrels salt. 1913, 21,739 barrels fresh and 19,000 barrels salted were brought in.

Week's Receipts at Boston.

Receipts of fresh groundfish at Boston for the week ending November 13 totalled 1,281,465 pounds. 48 arrivals as compared with 1,900 pounds from 97 arrivals for the corresponding week of 1913.

NO OFF SHORE ARRIVALS HERE

Not an offshore arrival has made an appearance up to noon today. The only receipts since yesterday's report are those of the gill netters, which had about 200,000 pounds, and the mackerel druggers arriving yesterday afternoon.

Steamer Nora B. Robinson had two barrels shad in her gill netting fare, which sold at 18 cents and 29 cents each.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

- Str. Nora B. Robinson, gill netting, 3000 lbs. fresh fish, 2 bbls. shad.
- Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 15,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Robert and Edwin, gill netting, 8000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Rough Rider, gill netting, 2800 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Bethulia, gill netting, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 11,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Ethel, gill netting, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Orion, gill netting, 15,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Carrie and Mildred, gill netting, 8000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Geisha, gill netting, 13,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Nashawena, gill netting, 12,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Julia May, gill netting, 7200 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Dolphin, gill netting, 8500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Mystery, gill netting, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Medomak, gill netting, 8500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Mary L., gill netting, 3700 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Quartette, gill netting, 5500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Lorena, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Sawyer, gill netting, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Water Witch, gill netting, 9000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Mary F. Ruth, gill netting, 12,700 lbs. fresh fish.
- Sch. Hortense, via Boston.
- Sch. Edith Silveira, shore.
- Sch. Russell, shore.
- Sch. Harriett, shore.
- Sch. Mary P. Goullart, shore.
- Sch. Adeline, shore.
- Sch. Rita A. Viator, shore.
- Sch. Ralph Brown, shore.
- Sch. Jorgina, shore.
- Sch. Mary DeCosta, shore.
- Sch. Esther Gray, shore.
- Steamer Gyda, via Boston.
- Str. Naomi Bruce, gill netting, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Anna T., gill netting, 8280 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Alice, gill netting, 3355 lbs. fresh fish.
- Sloop Pearl, cod netting, 1255 lbs. fresh fish.
- Sloop Advance, netting, 1000 fresh mackerel.
- Four Italian boats, 2500 fresh mackerel.
- Sloop Beulah Maud, 200 fresh mackerel.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, \$3.
 Georges halibut codfish, large, \$5; medium, \$4.25.
 Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.50; medium, \$4; snappers, \$3.
 Dory handline codfish, large, \$4.50; medium, \$4; snappers, \$3.
 Salt trawl bank codfish, large, \$4.25; medium, \$3.75; snappers, \$2.75.
 Salt drift codfish, large, \$4.50; medium, \$4.
 Cusk, large, \$3; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.50.
 Filched halibut, 10c per lb.
 Hake, \$1.80.
 Haddock, \$1.75.
 Pollock, \$1.75.
 North Bay mackerel, \$12 per bbl. for large and medium rimmed; \$11 per bbl. for large and medium unrimmed; \$8 per bbl. for tinkers.

Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices:
 Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt.
 Western cod, large, \$2.50; medium, \$2.10; snappers, 75c.
 Eastern cod, large, \$2.25; medium, \$1.95; snappers, 75c.
 Drift cod, large, \$2.40; medium, \$2.
 All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than above.
 Hake, \$1.40.
 Cusk, large, \$1.80; medium, \$1.25; snappers, 50c.
 Pollock, round 90c; dressed \$1.
 Fresh halibut, 14 1-2c for white, 7c for gray.
 Large shore herring, \$3 per bbl. for bait; \$2 to freezer; \$1.75 to salt.
 Fresh bluebacks, \$3 per bbl. for bait; \$1.75 to freeze; \$1 to salt.
 Fresh mackerel, 17c each for large 9c for medium.
 Fresh shad, 15 cents each.

TWO TRIPS HAILED OVER 40,000 LBS.

This morning receipts of groundfish at Boston consisted of four arrivals. Among them was sch. Sylvania, Capt. "Jeff" Thomas, with a 40,000 pound fare, and sch. Conqueror, Capt. Robertson Giffin, with a similar haul.

Trading was quiet, wholesalers paying \$4 to \$4.50 a hundred pounds for haddock, \$6 for large and \$3 for market cod, \$1.50 to \$4 for hake, \$1.65 for pollock, and \$2 for cusk.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:
 Sch. Georgianna, 6000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 hake.
 Sch. Aspinet, 22,000 haddock, 500 cod, 3000 hake.
 Sch. Conqueror, 23,000 haddock, 9000 cod, 8000 hake.
 Sch. Freedom, 5000 fresh mackerel.
 Sch. Sylvania, 22,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 8000 hake, 3500 cusk.
 Sch. Nickerson, 3000 fresh mackerel.
 Sch. Mabel E. Leavitt, 4500 fresh mackerel.
 Haddock, \$4 to \$4.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$6; market cod, \$3; hake, \$1.50 to \$4; pollock, \$1.65; cusk, \$2.

COMPLETE LIST LABRADOR TRIPS

Following is a list of the arrivals and their catches from the Straits and Labrador up to October 31st, as posted at the Board of Trade rooms yesterday:

District	Vsls.	Qtls.
Hant's Hr.,	3	640
Herring Neck,	26	9,680
Moreton's Hr.,	9	2,305
Twillingate,	51	21,405
Lewisporte,	3	620
Conception Hr.,	3	1,170
Hr. Main,	6	2,190
Brigus,	13	3,750
Bay Roberts,	19	7,620
Spaniard's Bay,	1	400
Hr. Grace,	6	1,400
Heart's Content,	8	1,630
Britannia,	4	1,950
Trinity,	47	17,700
Catalina,	14	3,200
Bonavista,	5	1,330
King's Cove,	6	1,570
Salvage,	14	4,740
Greenspond,	43	14,320
Wesleyville,	102	37,430
Change Isalnds,	17	5,890
Burgee,	1	285
Gaultois,	2	200
Belleoram,	1	350
Exploits,	7	2,100
Little Bay Islands,	25	8,740
Stone's Cove,	1	250
Total,	437	152,985

The above figures give an average catch of 350 quintals.—St. John's Herald, November 7.

The N. F. Codfish Catch.

The accompanying reports, comparing the catches of codfish in the different districts up to October 24 in the present and last years, were posted at the Board of Trade rooms yesterday:

District	1914	1913
Placentia and St. M.,	37,270	51,000
Burin,	105,115	115,960
Fortune Bay,	39,315	55,235
Burgee and La P.,	35,234	25,610
St. George's,	4,845	2,625
St. Barbe,	12,565	18,925
Twillingate,	57,064	55,075
Fogo,	...	55,000
Bonavista,	51,215	72,800
Trinity,	33,415	31,905
Bay de Verde,	21,300	11,465
Carbonear,	1,900	1,310
Harbor Grace,	13,863	9,220
Porte de Grave,	6,200	3,300
Harbor Main,	4,290	3,935
Ferryland,	12,760	20,010
Straits,	7,530	17,000

St. John's Herald, November 7

Portland Fish Notes.

Rather discouraged by the poor success made in their fishing operations the past few weeks the skippers of the fishing steamers Pet and Elthier have tied up their boats at Central wharf and will stay there until the fish show up again.

The well known coasting schooner Grace E. Stevens, which has for years been employed as a packet between Portland and eastern ports, is now on a new route, having come in here Thursday with a cargo of dry fish taken on at Beaver Harbor, N. B., and bound to Gloucester.

USE TRAWLERS TO BUCK ENGLAND

A London dispatch says:

The government is being urged to take drastic action against the crews of trawlers which fly a neutral flag but co-operate with German submarines in attacks on British warships. Every submarine success gained by the Germans has been secured largely because they have used a trawler mother ship to locate the British cruisers and to mask the approach of the submarine. This was true in the attack on the Hogue, Aboukir and Cressy and on the Hawke, and true also in an unsuccessful attack made by German submarines on the Russian warship Admiral Makaroff. A well known periodical offers the following comment:

Of itself a submarine is a species of intelligent floating mine, its speed and visual ability both of low order. The real danger lies in the German habit of using a trawler mother ship flying a neutral flag. Each German trawler acting as the brain. Obviously, then, the first thing to be done is to devise ways and means of dealing with the brain. We should be well within our rights if we gave it clearly to be understood that the crews of all vessels assisting enemy submarines under the neutral flag would be hanged as pirates. The percentage of men who will face in cold blood the chance of being hanged is small."

Change of Skippers.

Capt. William Anderson will command sch. Manomet in the shore haddock fishery for a few weeks while Capt. William Price engages in mackerel dragging in a smaller boat.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Manhasset and Flora L. Oliver were at Liverpool, N. S., Tuesday and cleared.

Nov. 16.

CAPT. HICKEY DOING WELL

Capt. John Hickey's new schooner Reading, in commission one month, has stocked over \$200 and the crew shared \$110 each. This makes a good month's work. Capt. Hickey is engaged in the fresh haddock fishery, landing a trip about once a week. The vessel looks like a money maker and the captain's friends wish him continued good fortune.