

BIG FISH CONCERN FOR OLD T WHARF

Producers' Fish Company Incorporated—Capitalized at \$50,000—Plans to Acquire Large Quarters at Former Famous Mart.

Regarding the rejuvenation of old T wharf as a big fish pier the Boston American prints the following:

There is a growing movement among the T wharf men and others to revive the old-time activity around the wharf district which, since the coming of the new Fish Pier in South Boston, has shifted.

The company has been formed to go into the wholesale fish business on a grand scale; and at the same time the Fishing Masters' Association taken on a new lease of life. The old wharf and the new company will be in harmony, it is said; and it is significant that one of the men connected in the organization of the new company has been elected secretary of the Fishing Masters' Association.

The wharf men will not talk about the new company. They are reticent to the point that if you ask them: "Do you know anything about the matter?" they say "No"; but if you ask them, "Is it so or not?" they may grudgingly admit it.

The secrecy has lent an air of mystery to recent developments along the waterfront, with the result that in every fish-shop in the T wharf district, the new company is the chief topic of conversation. The new company is called the 'Producers' Fish Company.' It is capitalized at \$50,000; it was incorporated ten days ago. The incorporators and officers named are Charles J. McGilvray, Eleanor B. Wood and Agnes T. Doyle. Mr. McGilvray is an attorney with offices at No. 804, at No. 60 State st. In the room with him is another attorney, Sylvester Whalen who has been elected secretary of the Fishing Masters' Association.

"Organize Company." Whalen said: "It is true that a company is being organized—has already been incorporated—to go into the wholesale fish business on a large scale. The \$50,000 capital is only a small part of the plan."

McGilvray, Miss Greenwood and Doyle, the incorporators, are in the nature of 'dummies', as the real concern are not yet to be known. The company plans to acquire expensive quarters on or near T wharf. The fishing captains have a lot of grievances, they've put up with a lot, and have suffered a great deal. They are independent men, catching fish living from the sea as they do. I fear no man. Therefore it has been decided to get them to take concerted action.

"But it now seems as though they have realized their own interests demand they get together. The Fishing Masters' Association has been revived. I was invited to attend the meeting, and was informally elected secretary."

"Our plans will shortly develop." "The officers of the Fishing Masters' Association, beside Mr. Whalen, are Capt. William Thomas—now out fishing—and Captain Dexter Malone. Captain Malone is treasurer, Captain Thomas, president. Captain Malone said:

"I don't know as there's much to say about this. The fishing masters did hold a meeting to revive the old association. I've heard a lot of talk. I don't know just what's going to come of it."

"Don't Like New Pier." "Designer Thomas McManus, who knows all the gossip of the wharf, said: "There's been a company organized. The fishing masters held two meetings to talk things over. The captains don't like things over in South Boston. The pier there is on stone piling, and a heavy sea bangs the boats against it. A man with \$12,000 or \$15,000 in a boat doesn't want to lose it. They don't like to have their boats banking up against that piling. It strains their ropes and gear. Then they don't like the treatment they get over there."

"On the other side of the story are the New England Fish Exchange, which controls trading at the Fish Pier, and the Boston Fish Market Corporation, which controls the pier. The Port Directors are building a breakwater to make the pier a more secure haven for the fishing fleet. W. K. Beardsley, manager of the exchange said:

"The fishermen are peculiar fellows. They've never been treated as well as they're treated here. They're satisfied till they see something else to do."

"The men in the fish business are here, and they're here to stay. There are 200 dealers here to bid on every cargo of fish that comes in. The trade is all here. We simply enforce the fulfillment of all deals. We force a buyer to accept his purchase and pay, and we force the skippers to deliver. "As for damage to vessels, there's been no damage yet. We've heard no complaints. But the governor has signed a contract for a breakwater. But right now, if I had a \$5000 passenger yacht, I wouldn't hesitate to tie her up at the Fish Pier."

CALLS LOBSTER CONDITIONS UNFAIR

Maine Man Speaks For Uniform Law In New England States.

The following letter appeared in the recent issue of the Rockport Review: Biddeford, Maine, December 16, 1914.

Editor Rockport Review, Rockport, Mass.

Dear Sir:—On September 22 last, I called at your office, and at that time explained my mission, to wit: gathering statistics on the fishing industry in the vicinity of Gloucester and Rockport. At that time I told you I would write your paper some time in the prospective.

I have recently read a story in the Fishing Gazette of New York, touching upon the legal length of the lobster both in Mass., and New Hampshire, which was hardly according to Hoyie, or to the Statutes of the contiguous State mentioned. That usual correct publication was misinformed, for the Mass. law is a nine inch live lobster, with a shading off for its cooked condition. But this letter or the essence of this note is to place before you a predicament which is so notorious along the coast of Maine, especially from Biddeford Pool to Kittery Point, that I am writing the Review a story, which is generally known to every fisherman from Portland, Maine, to Rockport.

The measurement of a lobster in the "Pine Tree State" is a different affair than the Mass. or New Hampshire measurements. We measure the Carapace or belly of the lobster and any crustacean under 4-3-4 from the snout to the extreme of the body shell, is illegal. That measurement makes the legal nine inch lobster of Mass. and New Hampshire an illegal affair in this State, consequently we have boats from Mass. waters who ply into Maine, buying from our fishermen, what they cannot sell legally in an open market.

The Maine fishermen are compelled to sell that particular fruit of the deep, in violation of the laws of Maine, and at a figure that is not compatible with the prices they get in other States. I anticipate an inquiry from the Review:—"Why not have your wardens arrest these fellows and libel their boats?" It is easier said than accomplished. If the small power boats of the local fishermen go outside of three miles limit and deliver lobsters,

there are no governing statutes to correct the evil, for at any angle you look at the situation it is hurtful and brings about a notorious condition.

A commission has been appointed by Congress for a uniformity of legislation in the United States. I could reasonably touch on this unfair condition that exists between sister states and present to us a statue, the unanimity of which, would drive from the waters of this state, all semblance of lobster poaching, and I am mindful of an Xmas sentiment, when I affirm that 90 per cent. of all lobster fishermen in this country do not sidestep to garner a bit of extra change in a barter of their nine-inch lobsters. The mythical Captain Kidd would be given cards and spades, were he in this jurisdiction to note the operations of the lobster fishers.

An effort to change the length of our measurement will be advocated in January, when the Legislature of Maine again convenes, to have a conformity of rule with Mass. and New Hampshire.

The future of the lobster industry depends on the care we give it, and when you take into consideration the story of Prof. Herrick that it takes from six to seven years for a lobster to reach the embryo state, the question of a nine inch lobster law should be investigated. It is by the strictest observance of scientific rules and the compliance with the laws, that the industry can be maintained.

I have been told by lobster fishermen "not to worry concerning the prospective, as there are lobsters now and always will be." He loses sight of the cardinal fact, and that is this, the public have some rights which are equal to the men who fish. In closing let me say as a climax, that the 90 per cent. of the lobstermen voted above, 50 per cent. would put the officials wise to the illegal sale of liquor or the perpetration of a felony within the curtilage of their homes.

Very truly yours, FRED A. TARBOX.

Elected New Director.

At a meeting of the directors of the Consumers' Fish Company, Limited, at Yarmouth, N. S., David H. Choate of the P. H. Prior Company was elected president in place of the late E. E. Prior.

Week's Landings at T Wharf.

For the week ending December 24, 1,329,200 pounds fresh fish from 51 arrivals were landed at Boston as compared with 1,273,960 pounds from 58 arrivals for the corresponding week in 1913.

Will Soon Be Fishing Again.

The fishing schooner Annie Perry which was sunk off Point Allerton some time ago in collision with the steam trawler Surf, and was given up as a total loss, will soon resume her vocation. After the vessel had lain at the bottom of the channel for several days she was raised, beached on Long Island and patched. She was then towed to Boston, and thoroughly repaired. She is now at T wharf, where her ballast is being replaced today. She will be fitted with new rigging and sails and will be ready to leave in the course of a few weeks for the fishing grounds.

HARD SEASON ON HERRING FISHERS

Bad Weather Has Caused Loss of Much Gear—Some Crafts Load at Bay of Islands—Looks Blue at Bonne Bay.

The herring situation at Bonne Bay, N. F., has but little of a roseate nature to offer, advices received by the Times this morning stating that the fishery there is over for the season, and most of the crafts have left for Bay of Islands, in hopes of securing cargoes.

Never before it is said in the history of the herring fishery at Bonne Bay has the season been so poor. There has been but a few fish taken, which coupled with the almost continued succession of gales has added to trials and tribulation of the fishermen. After having laid in harbor for many days, most of the fleet have towed to Bay of Islands, leaving but four crafts there at present, which are waiting a favorable opportunity to get away. At Bay of Islands, herring have

been fairly plentiful, and there has been some frost, but gales and bad weather have interfered greatly with fishing operations. Now and then, when a favorable day has afforded, some fair catches of herring have been made at North Arm, but on the other hand, hundreds of dollars worth of gear have been lost, which will be severely felt by the fishermen.

A number of local crafts are well fished, however, some having secured full cargoes. Of the latter, schs. Independence II., Tattler, Olga, and a few others are ready to sail. No ice has been reported, although the season is near at hand, when the heavy pack will commence to block the straits. While the weather for December has been the worst in the history of the herring fishery at both Bonne Bay and the Bay of Islands, there is still good opportunity, it is figured, for those crafts now waiting at Bay of Islands to secure cargoes.

ANDROSCOGGIN ON THE WAY TO BOSTON

Secretary Henry F. Brown of the Board of Trade has received a letter from the Treasury Department stating that the U. S. Revenue Cutter Androscoggin has left Baltimore for Boston from which port she will start on her cruise as a hospital ship for the Boston and Gloucester fishing fleet soon after January 1.

The letter follows:
Treasury Department
Washington, Dec. 26, 1914.
The Gloucester Board of Trade,
Gloucester, Mass.

Gentlemen:—The department acknowledges with thanks your letter of the 22nd instant outlining the movements of the deep-sea fishing fleet and suggesting a sphere of operation which will enable the Androscoggin to carry medical aid to the greatest number of vessels. She sails from Baltimore today for Boston and as soon as possible after January 1st she will leave the latter port to enter upon her duty as the cruising hospital ship for the American deep-sea fishermen.

With the cooperation of the Public Health Service, the vessel has been fitted with modern hospital accommodations and equipment and her complement includes a surgeon and the necessary medical attendants detailed from that Service.

Before the Androscoggin leaves on her cruise, her commanding officer, Capt. W. E. W. Hall, will advise you in greater detail concerning the proposed method of procedure in order that through your organization the fishing fleet may be fully informed as to the opportunities for medical assistance thus provided by the government.

It is the department's earnest desire that this effort to ameliorate the conditions under which our fishermen must ply their hazardous calling, shall meet with success, and will welcome any suggestions from you which will aid in accomplishing this object.

Respectfully,
BYRON R. NEWTON,
Assistant Secretary.

NOTHING 'ROUND THE POINT TODAY

Not an arrival from off shore had put in an appearance up to noon today. It was generally quiet along the water front, the only fares landed since yesterday being those of the few gill netters that are still following the fishery. Most of the small boats have hauled out for a few weeks until the prospects are better.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:
Str. Ethel, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Sawyer, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Nora B. Robinson, gill netting, 400 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Enterprise, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Orion, gill netting, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Vessels Sailed.

- Sch. Mary DeCosta, haddocking.
- Sch. Elva L. Spurling, haddocking.
- Sch. Jorgina, haddocking.
- Sch. Jeanette, haddocking.
- Sch. Flora L. Oliver, haddocking.
- Sch. Ralph Brown, haddocking.
- Sch. Actor, haddocking.
- Sch. Rita A. Viator, haddocking.
- Sch. Esther Gray, haddocking.
- Sch. Emily Sears, haddocking.
- Sch. Alice, haddocking.
- Sch. Mary P. Goulart, haddocking.
- Sch. Harriet, haddocking.
- Sch. Mary F. Sears, haddocking.
- Sch. Adeline, haddocking.
- Sch. Yankee, haddocking.
- Sch. Leonora Silveria, haddocking.
- Sch. Russell, haddocking.
- Sch. Edith Silveria, haddocking.
- Sch. Washakie, haddocking.
- Sch. Corona, haddocking.

The Sardine Pack.

The total pack of the Maine sardine factories for the season of 1914, which closed on December 1, is stated to have been about 1,800,000 cases, of which amount the two local factories are said to have contributed 100,000 cases. The season has been a good one for all concerned, and with the excellent demand now reported, it is probable the entire pack will be closed out before another spring.

N. F. Price of Fish Is Up.

The price of fish has stiffened again during the week, and the market is keen on buying, says the St. John's, N. F., Trade Review. The stocks available at city wharves are small, but a few cargoes have arrived from outports during the week. The prices vary a bit, but the figure this morning for a good article of talqual. Merchandisable and Maderia is \$7.50. Prices range from that figure down to \$7.30 for middling goods. Other grades are the same as last week, but codoil has advanced. The codoil price this morning is from \$80 to \$82 per tun hardwood packages.

THE HALIFAX FISH MARKET

During the past two weeks the fish market has strengthened considerably and a number of cargoes reported to have passed into the hands of exporters in Lunenburg at \$6.50 a quintal, says the Maritime Merchant. So far as we can learn there have been no sales to Halifax houses at as high a figure as this, tho there probably will be before long. These houses still working on stock contracted earlier in the season when the nature of the market was depressing to think of; the trade's only regret is that stocks are not larger.

It is said that the Lunenburg fishermen whose fish is still unsold are expecting higher figures than \$6.50, if they get it they will have to wait until the present glut in Porto Rico has been cleaned away. The Porto Rico situation of late has not been all good, and prices have dropped from two to three dollars per cask. It is said to be a third of the Lunenburg catch of codfish still unsold and the prospect that it will bring a price, the year's return for the industry as represented by Lunenburg county is much more satisfactory than it was a few months ago or immediately after the outbreak of the war. The highest price obtained for codfish last year was \$7.00 and over the catch of the fleet was sold at \$6.50. It is not possible, therefore, that this year's results will be as good for as we have said, two-thirds of the catch has already been sold and the total for the whole season is in quantity somewhat less than last year.

From St. John's, N. F., we hear that all the bulk Labrador codfish have been taken for the Mediterranean trade and as a result prices at St. John's have stiffened considerably. It is now admitted that Newfoundland will have nothing to offer in the West India market, so Lunenburg people will have to take care of the field pretty much to themselves.

The most interesting foreign market today is Italy, and it is expected that it will readily absorb all that can send it until present stocks are finished. The only regret of the exporters is that they cannot get the fish of the quality that is needed in that market. The news from South Brazil is none too cheerful, but there is a little improvement to note. The trouble is that the country is over market its coffee and is finding it difficult indeed to raise money. Northern Brazil things are better, their output of sugar sold at high prices has made money easier. In the Brazils it may be said are being under the handicap of tremendous charges for foreign exchange. The most active buyers of fish these days is the United States, present for home consumption. The wharves and warehouses of Halifax are very busy places these days.

Dec 29

RECEIPTS LIGHT AT THE NEW PIER

Light receipts continue to rule at the Boston fish pier, there being but few arrivals there since yesterday. The beam trawlers, Billow and Foam brought in the bulk of the fares, the former having 60,000 pounds, of which 5,000 pounds were scrod and the latter 18,000 pounds, 18,000 pounds being cod.

Schs. Buema and Mary E. Sennett from the shore had small fares. Quotations were \$3.50 to \$5 a hundred for haddock, \$4.50 for large and \$3.50 for market cod, \$2 to \$2.50 for hake, \$4 for pollock and \$2 for cusk.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Str. Billow, 58,000 haddock, 600 cod, 2500 pollock.

Str. Foam, 33,000 haddock, 400 cod, 2000 pollock.

Sch. Buema, 3500 haddock, 2300 cod, 2200 hake, 2500 cusk.

Sch. Mary E. Sennett, 4500 cod, 1800 hake.

Haddock, \$3.50 to \$5 per cwt.; large cod, \$4.50; market cod, \$3.50; hake, \$3 to \$2.50; pollock, \$4; cusk, \$2.

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.

Cusk, large, \$3; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.50.

Hake, \$1.80.

Haddock, \$1.75.

Pollock, \$1.75.

Newfoundland herring, \$3.25 per bbl. for salt bulk. \$4.25 per bbl. for pickled.

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.

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, 80c; dressed, 90c.

Fresh halibut, 16c for white and 11c for gray.

Newfoundland frozen herrings, 3c per lb.

Portland Fishing News.

With the exception of a few small boats the schooner Fanny Reed, with a catch of 10,000 pounds, was the only fishing arrival reported Sunday. A few of the vessels which have been tied up at Central wharf for several days started out but were forced to come back without making any attempt at fishing as they found it blowing hard outside with a thick vapor arising from the waters.

Dec. 29

ARE FIGHTING OVER DOGFISH

Says the Portland Argus: For reasons unknown, Congressman Hinds has introduced a "dogfish for food" bill which, it is understood, carries an appropriation of not more than \$15,000 for the exploitation of this species. This comes as a disappointment to many of Mr. Hinds' friends, both Democratic and Republican. They are the more surprised because previous to the introduction a practical sea food conservation bill bearing the date of May, 1913, which was of practical conservation in the House.

"Dogfish as food has been exploded twice within a few years by the refusal of the commissary departments of both the army and navy, who would not buy dogfish as food for either the soldiers or sailors," said Charles W. Davis, last evening. Mr. Davis, who has devoted so much of his time and energy in behalf of the fertilizer method of ridding the sea of dogfish, continued:

The well-wishers of both the sea and shore fisheries sincerely regret the fact that Congressman Hinds has joined the opponents of practical conservation of our fisheries.

"Congressman McGillicuddy will be urgently petitioned to amend the Hind's bill now before the House fisheries committee for report and passage. The amendment which Mr. McGillicuddy will be petitioned to make is as follows:

"Be it further provided that the appropriation of \$15,000 or less proposed in this bill to be used for the exploitation of the nauseating and destructive sharks, the dogfish shall be paid, instead, to the fishermen of the Maine coast for the labor of removing the destructive sharks from the sea and shore fisheries of Maine upon which these destructive dogfish are preying to the extent of over \$100 per dogfish annually, as objectionable and free boarders on the valuable fisheries of Maine and other states."

LYLE CORRECTS LOBSTER LAW

Representative James M. Lyle in a statement to the Times states that Section 12 of the proposed lobster law does not belong in the bill. Mr. Lyle says that the section was proposed by Mr. Kimball of Cohasset. Mr. Lyle fought the measure and had the section stricken out.

Section 12 read as follows: Section 12. Any lobsterman who has been a resident of this state since January 1, 1910, and who has been engaged in the catching of lobsters for a living from any of the waters in the jurisdiction of this state for the five years previous, or next preceding January 1, 1915, may be granted a license to catch and take lobsters from the water in the jurisdiction of the state.

Dec. 29

MORE HERRING THAN LAST YEAR

For the week ending December 24, 2640 barrels salt and 310 barrels pickled herring were landed, making 20 arrivals with 26,077 barrels salt bulk, 2280 barrels pickled and 300,000 pounds frozen herring landed to date.

The corresponding week last year, there were two arrivals with 2443 barrels salt bulk and 215 barrels pickled herring, making 14 arrivals to date. The total catch to that time was 17,554 barrels salt and 1731 barrels pickled herring.

Dec. 30

BAD WEATHER HOLDS FLEET IN

The few gill netters that were out yesterday landed their fish yesterday afternoon and shipped them to Boston. No large fares were reported, the fishermen finding fish scarce, which with the low prices paid at Boston this morning gives but small encouragement to the situation.

Sch. Lillian from Maine ports with a cargo of cured fish is the only arrival here this morning.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Lillian, Maine ports, cured fish.

Sch. Little Fannie, gill netting, 4500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Ethel, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Flavilla, shore.

Sch. Stranger, shore.

Sch. Adeline, shore.

Sch. Genesta, shore.

Sch. James and Esther, shore.

Sch. Josephine DeCosta, shore.

Sch. Priscilla, shore.

Sch. Mary F Sears, shore.

Sch. Yankee, shore.

Sch. Harriett, shore.

Sch. Mary P. Gouart, shore.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, shore.

Sch. Alice, shore.

Sch. Emily Sears, shore.

Sch. Esther Gray, shore.

Sch. Elva L. Spurling, shore.

Sch. Actor, shore.

Sch. Jorgina, shore.

Sch. Rita A. Viator, shore.

Sch. Russell, shore.

Str. Rough Rider, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Vessels Sailed.

No sailings today.

Dec. 30 27

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.

Cusk, large, \$3; medium, \$2; snappers, \$1.50.

Hake, \$1.80.

Haddock, \$1.75.

Pollock, \$1.75.

Newfoundland herring, \$3.25 per bbl. for salt bulk. \$4.25 per bbl. for pickled.

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.

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, 80c; dressed, 90c.

Fresh halibut, 16c for white and 11c for gray.

Newfoundland frozen herring, 3c per lb.

Dull at Fulton Market.

There was not a great deal of business last week, as many varieties of green fish were scarce.

Boat receipts consisted of 14 trips of codfish, the total cod catch being 29,400 fish.

Codfish was cheap during the entire week, market cod bringing 1 1-2 to 2c and steak cod 4 to 5c.

Haddock brought 5 to 6c.

Hake was quoted at 3 1-2 to 4c.

Pollock sold at 4 to 5c.

Halibut, Western white, was cheaper this week than it has been in some time past. On Saturday last the price was 8c, Monday 6 1-2 to 8c, and 6 to 7c during the remainder of the week.

Dec. 30

Taking Of Scallops.

Senator Charles J. Gifford has filed two bills with the clerk of the Senate, one of which is on the petition of Bradley S. Nickerson and provides for an open season on the taking of scallops and all other shellfish used as food. It sets forth that it shall be lawful at any time to use for food scallops and other shellfish of any size taken from the waters of the Commonwealth in the course of dredging, lawfully carried on for other purposes, provided, however, that the scallops and other shellfish are not taken from contaminated waters. The second bill authorizes the County Commissioners of Barnstable County to maintain an adequate hospital for the care and treatment of persons ill with tuberculosis and other contagious diseases, the infirmary to be owned by the county. The county is authorized to issue bonds to an amount not exceeding \$50,000 to provide for the construction, equipment and maintenance of said infirmary.