SEES PERIL TO FISH INDUSTRY IF PROPOSED TARIFF BILL PASSES

Must the fishing industry of New England move to Canada? asks the Boston Herald, editorially.

This is not merely an academic question. The fishermen and the fishing companies of Massachusetts are facing a serious problem. The Bay State Company, the largest concern of the kind in the United States and perhaps in the world, with gross sales last year of $4,252,939, is on record with the Senate Finance Committee that if certain tariff proposals were adopted, that company would be compelled to move its plant to Canada. All New England is a unit on the issue, with the exception of a single company, and thereby hangs a tale.

The company in question is the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Corporation, its offices in New York, and its plant at Groton, Connecticut, which explains the interest taken in its contentions by Senator Bingham of the tariff-making committee. The company was incorporated in 1922 and now owns the capital stock of six concerns in the fishing industry. What is more, and very significant, this company in April of this year acquired two great Canadian companies, the Maritime Fishing Corporation, Ltd., of Montreal, and the National Fishing Corporation, Ltd., of Halifax, both operating in the Maritime Provinces and owning plants at Digby, Canso, Halifax and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The Atlantic also has a freezer at Vigo in Spain. The Groton plant comprises the former property of the Groton Iron Works. The company has announced the immediate installation of new patented quick-freezing apparatus at the Digby and Canso plants.

The Reason Why.

It is important to note that most of the Atlantic's fleet of steam trawlers, 14 in all, were purchased in December, 1926, from a fishing corporation which had gone into bankruptcy. The boats at that time were lying in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. To build such boats in this country costs $160,000 per ship. The Atlantic paid $110,000 for the lot. Fitted with gear, and ready for service at sea, these vessels represented an outlay of $40,000 each. In 1926 also the company took over two refrigerating plants at Provincetown.

The intent of the company was said to be make Groton the fishing capital of New England, But nobody from the ocean coast moved down to the town on the sound. Thereupon, the Atlantic took over enough of the fishing industry of Canada to be in control of more than half of its total production of West Coast salmon.

Now the purpose of a tariff is understood to be the protection of an industry. If the tariff on fish is not fixed at a proper level for protective purposes, New England will not be able to compete with Canada. The production of fish for market is now a manufacturing industry. The fishing grounds are free to all nations, but for the market the fillet is now "the thing." Attractive in appearance and carefully packed, the edible boneless sides so named have opened to the fishing companies a future of great promise. Preparing the fillets is a manufacturing process, requiring a large amount of labor. In Canada, labor costs are far below labor costs in New England, perhaps a third as high. Freight rates from Canada to the great markets of the Middle West are no higher than from New England ports; in some cases rates are lower. This means that the Canadian product can defeat the American product, unless an adequate scale of tariff protection is provided.

A Serious Matter.

The Massachusetts Fisheries Association is satisfied with the Senate tariff proposals—with one vital exception. A seasonal clause has been inserted which would cut the tariff in half on "other fish not specially provided for" during seven months of the year, from October to May, the winter season. The Groton Company deals only with frozen goods, the non-perishable commodity, and apparently has patented a process for better and faster freezing. These goods can be kept a year in storage. The storage rate there is half the storage rate here. Statistics show that it is during these winter months that nine-tenths of the importation of Canadian fish takes place. Summer market prices often are below production cost. The higher winter prices really sustain the business. That seasonal clause looks like an attempt to deliver the American market into the hands of the Canadian product.

Well-informed business men in this city, and not the Massachusetts Fisheries Association alone, are of the opinion that if the tariff is placed too low this industry, associated so long and so honorably with New England, will be compelled in self-protection to migrate to Canada.

Nova Scotia Dried Fish.

The present time being between seasons there are no interesting developments in the dried fish situation. Vessels have been arriving back in Lunenburg from their summer trip to the banks, but so far the catches of individual vessels have been below those of the corresponding trip last year. What the luck of the vessels still to come home will be there is no way of knowing, but the experience has usually been that the first arrivals pretty well indicate what the general experience will be. Meantime stocks of cured fish at Lunenburg are cleaned up and it will be three weeks or a month before any fish made from the catch now coming home will be available; consequently there are no transactions between fishermen and exporters on which to report any price.

The markets both in Newfoundland and most consuming countries hold firm . The Italian and Spanish markets are in a satisfactory condition; that is, they pay satisfactory prices. The Oporto market is not so satisfactory, last sales having been on a lower basis. The market in Northern Brazil holds firm and in Southern Brazil prices are still hopeless, owing to European competition. Prices in Porto Rico are fair, as shipments have been on a moderate scale.—Maritime Merchant.

Nova Scotia Pickled Fish.

No. 1 large grocery herring are now in good supply. Prices are easier than last month. Purchases of strictly No. 1 quality have recently been made at $6.50 ex boat. The market for spring herring is unchanged, export demand continuing fair. The present value for this article is $5.25 to $5.50 for large and $4.25 for medium ex boat. Spring mackerel remain steady; prices are unchanged at $8.25 to $8.50 ex boat.—Maritime Merchant.

TWO DRAGGERS ONLY ARRIVALS

SEINING FLEET HELD IN PORT SINCE SATURDAY BY EASTERLY.

Two off-shore draggers and a small Boston dragger were the only arrivals reported here this morning. The entire seining fleet has been held in port since Saturday owing to an easterly outside, but nearly all of them sailed this morning to look for fish. The offshore draggers landing this morning went to the General Seafoods Corporation for filleting.

Gloucester Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:

Sch. Governor Fuller, dragging, 65,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Evalina M. Goulart, dragging, 60,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Charles Fauci, dragging, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Azores, via Boston.

Boat Lucia, via Boston.

Sailed.

Boat Jackie B., seining.
Boat Bethulia, seining.
Boat Captain Drum, seining.
Boat Natale II., seining.
Boat Hoop-la, seining.
Boat Governor Prence, seining.
Boat Florence K., seining.
Boat Inca, seining.
Sch. Mary F. Curtis, seining.
Sch. Catherine Burke, seining.
Sch. Elk, seining.
Sch. St. Rosalie, seining.
Sch. St. Peter, seining.
Sch. St. Provvidenza II., seining.
Boat Alicia, seining.
Boat Clarence B. Mitchell, seining.
Boat Elizabeth and James, seining.
Boat Edna Fae, seining.
Boat Col. Lindbergh, seining.
Boat Mary W., seining.
Boat Alden, seining.
Sch. Josephine and Mary, seining.
Sch. Beauty St. Joseph, seining.
Sch. Raymonde, dragging.
Sch. Grace and Evelyn, dragging.
Sch. Constellation, seining.

Saturday's Gill Netting Receipts.

Boat Agnes and Myrnie, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Lucretia, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Nashawena, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Eliza C. Riggs, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Joanna, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Myrtle and Gladys, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.

Yesterday's Gill Netting Receipts.

Boat Nashawena, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Eliza C. Riggs, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat C. A. Meister, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Myrtle and Gladys, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

On the Railways.

Boat Lincoln is on Parkhurst's railways.

Scs. Azores and Boat Lucia are on Burnham's railways.

Sept. 23

BOSTON MARKET OPENED STRONG

RECEIPTS FAIRLY HEAVY—HADDOCK AT $5.50 WITH GOOD DEMAND.

The market at the Boston fish pier was very strong on the opening this morning and all prices were at about the highest point since last spring. Receipts were heavy, too. There were 22 arrivals with 888.000 pounds of groundfish, 76 swordfish and 100,000 pounds of mixed fish.

Haddock was quoted at $5 to $5.50 on the early sales; large cod, $7 to $8; market, $4 to $4.50 and other varieties in proportion. Swordfish was up to 20 to 32 cents.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:

Str. Cormorant, 60,000 haddock, 23,000 cod, 13,000 mixed fish.

Str. Ocean, 92,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 8000 mixed fish.

Str. Sea, 85,000 haddock, 9000 cod, 13,000 mixed fish.

Str. Teal, 100,000 haddock, 6000 cod, 11,000 mixed fish.

Str. Lexington, 55,000 haddock, 14,000 cod.

Sch. Colleen, 13,000 haddock, 1500 cod, 1100 mixed fish.

Sch. Blanche Ring, 5000 haddock, 300 cod, 400 mixed fish.

Sch. Olive M. Williams, 26,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 5000 mixed fish.

Sch. John Mantia, 14,000 haddock, 4500 cod, 8000 mixed fish.

Sch. R. Eugene Ashley, 40,000 scrod, 4000 cod, 6000 mixed fish.

Sch. Lark, 42,000 haddock, 21,000 cod, 12,000 hake.

Sch. Louise B. Marshall, 38,000 haddock, 18,000 cod, 12,000 hake.

Sch. Wanderer, 110,000 haddock, 42,000 cod.

Sch. Elmer E. Gray, 2500 haddock, 34,000 cod.

Sch. Marie and Winnifred, 37 swordfish.

Sch. America, 39 swordfish.

Boat Automatic, 7500 mixed fish.

Boat Two Pals, 6600 mixed fish.

Boat Maria D. S., 3300 mixed fish.

Boat Fanny Parnell, 5600 mixed fish.

Boat Mayflower, 4300 mixed fish.

Boat Rosie, 5500 mixed fish.

Haddock, $5 to $5.50 per cwt.; large cod, $7 to $8; market cod, $4 to $4.50; hake, $2.50 to $3; pollock, $$3 to $4; cusk, $2.50; gray sole, 10 cents per lb.; lemon sole, 12 cents; black backs, 5 cents; yellow tails, 5 1-2 cents; dabs, 5 1-2 cents; mackerel, 12 cents to 16; swordfish, 20 cents to 32 cents; blinks, 4 cents to 5 cents; sharks, 5 cents; catfish, 7 cents.

HUB RECEIPTS WELL OVER FIVE MILLION MARK

Groundfish were in good supply last week. Receipts were mostly haddock, which were in demand, and the market was strong. For the week ending September 19, there were 126 arrivals at the Boston fish pier with 5,193,100 pounds of fresh fish. In the same week of 1928, there were 78 arrivals with 4,341,172 pounds.

From January 1 to date, there have been 4128 arrivals with 191,649,812 pounds of fresh fish. In the same period of 1928, there were 4031 arrivals and receipts were 163,352,660 pounds.

Sept. 23

Took Stripped Bass.

Traps at Provincetown caught several thousand pounds of striped bass last week. It was the largest catch of these fish for a number of years. These fish were formerly quite plentiful in Cape Cod waters.

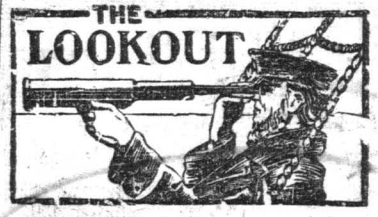
N. S. Boneless Cod.

Nova Scotia boneless codfish are reported in demand and sales are reported from first hands at 14 cents per pound.

Floating Fish Canneries.

It is reported that Kokusai Floating Cannery Company, with a capital of ten million yen (approximately $4,670,000), having offices in Tokio, is being organized for the purpose of fishing in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Bering Sea ,according to information contained in a report to the Department of Commerce by Assistant Trade Commissioner H. B. Titus at Tokio. The promoters of the company state that they will do business in the Bering Sea during the first business year with two trawlers of eighty short tons each, one floating cannery of 11,000 tons, five trawlers of 264 tons each, and a floating salmon factory of 6600 short tons.

Sept. 24



IT HAS BEEN a great mackerel year, statistics showing that over 219,000 barrels have been taken by the local fishermen since the season opened in the spring. With several weeks yet to go and provided of course the fish linger on the shore as it is hoped they will, the figures should be considerably increased before the final voyage is figured. In 1927, some 246,000 barrels were landed and in 1926, the best year in many, 268,000 barrels were brought in.

Newfoundland Cod News.

Fishing has continued to show improvement along many sections of the coast during the past week and all are now in hope of putting in a good fall fishery. News from Labrador gives much encouragement of the catch being much larger than anticipated earlier in the season and estimated at between 250,000 to 300,000 quintals. The fishery there is practically over and all are curing and preparing their fish for market. Three steamers are expected to take cargoes direct from the coast to Mediterranean ports. Floaters have done exceptionally well and practically every vessel is returning with full load. The shore fishery along Conception Bay, Bay de Verde, Trinity North and St. Georges has not been good but better catches have been reported from the other sections so that the outlook will be for an average shore fishery. We hope every effort is being made this year to cure the fish in a right and proper way to suit all markets. The foreign markets continue steady. Spain, Italy and Greece are showing improvement for some supplies at present values. Oporto has shown a weaker tendency but with consumption being maintained. The West Indies is reported fair, but Porto Rico continues unfavorable with limited buying. Brazil is also dull and the failure of the coffee crop will probably have the effect in curtailing shipments this season.—St. John's Trade Review.

Sept. 24

BOSTON MARKET IS STILL HIGH

GROUNDFISH STILL IN GOOD DEMAND—SEINERS HAVE FEW BLINK MACKEREL.

A fleet of 28 vesseds was on hand at the Boston fish pier this morning when the bell rang for the beginning of trading. Two of them, however, had only a few fish. They were the strs. Crest and Ripple, which returned because of disabled apparatus, went directly to East Boston for repairs.

Total receipts were 826,000 pounds of groundfish, 206,000 pounds of fresh mackerel and 160,400 pounds of mixed fish. The market continued strong with prices high. Haddock sold at $5 to $5.25, large cod, $8, and markets, $4. Blink mackerel brought 3.30 to 3.50 cents per pound.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:

Str. Comber, 42,000 haddock, 12,000 cod, 31,000 mixed fish.

Str. Gale, 65,000 haddock, 9000 cod, 15,000 mixed fish.

Str. Foam, 60,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 10,000 mixed fish.

Str. Crest, broken trip, fare not reported.

Str. Ripple, broken trip, fare not reported.

Str. Albatross, 66,000 haddock, 7000 cod, 22,000 mixed fish.

Str. Boston, 52,000 haddock, 21,000 cod, 7000 mixed fish.

Str. Harvard, 50,000 haddock, 4000 cod, 10,000 mixed fish.

Sch. Marisstella, 30,000 haddock, 15,000 cod, 5500 mixed fish.

Sch. Helen M., 30,000 haddock, 2600 cod, 2200 mixed fish.

Sch. William E. Killigrew, 34,000 haddock, 6000 cod, 9000 mixed fish.

Sch. Olivia Brown, 54,000 haddock, 4000 cod, 6000 mixed fish.

Sch. Mary, 33,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 5800 mixed fish.

Boat Bettina, 43,000 haddock, 4500 scrod.

Sch. William L. Putnam, 25,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 3000 mixed fish.

Sch. Dawn, 37,000 haddock, 13,000 cod, 10,000 hake.

Sch. Ellen T. Marshall, 54,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 10,000 hake.

Sch. John J. Fallon, 8000 haddock, 13,000 cod.

Boat Alicia, 58,000 blink mackerel.

Boat Rosie, 45,000 blink mackerel.

Boat Natale II., 50,000 blink mackerel.

Boat Naomi Bruce III., 15,000 blink mackerel.

Boat Uncle Sam, 38,000 blink mackerel.

Boat Four Brothers, 2000 haddock, 3500 mixed fish.

Boat Atalanta, 6200 mixed fish.

Boat Elmer S., 5100 mixed fish.

Boat Arthur and Matthew, 8200 mixed fish.

Boat Evangeline D., 5000 mixed fish.

Boat Serafina, 6200 mixed fish.

Boat Nancy, 1200 mixed fish.

Haddock, $5 to $5.25 per cwt.; large cod, $8; market cod, $4; hake, $2.50; pollock, $3.50; cusk, $2.50; gray sole, 10 cents per pound; lemon sole, 11 1-2 cents; black backs, 5 cents; yellow tails, 5 cents; dabs, 5 cents; mackerel 14 to 16 cents; blinks, 3.30 to 3.50 cents; catfish, 7 cents .