

The Failure of the Labrador Fishery.

FAILURE OF METHOD, NOT OF FISH—TRAWLS SUCCESSFUL WHERE TRAPS FAILED—TOPSY TURVEY ANTICS OF FISHERY BOARD—BAIT PROBLEM—WHAT ABOUT DRIED SQUID—WHY NOT WATER DRY SQUID—CONCEPTION BAY NOW FULL OF SQUID—EXPERIMENT SUGGESTED—QUARRELING ABOUT TRAP BERTHS WITH 16,000 SQUARE MILES OF TRAWL GROUND NOT FISHED.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—In the streets of St. John's, and doubtless throughout the Island, the principal topic of conversation is the failure of the Labrador Fishery. But is this a correct statement of the problem? Have the fisheries failed? I doubt it. Is it not rather a failure of method? The codfish are still there in countless myriads beyond doubt; it is only we that have failed to find them. For some reason or other the fish failed to come in on the shore and be caught. They persisted in staying in the deep water, and our fishermen, who were fitted out with traps only, were powerless to catch them. Too much dependence has hitherto been placed in traps, and there has been too much sitting round on the rocks waiting for the cod to walk ashore, so to speak. Of the merits and demerits of traps I do not intend to speak, beyond stating the obvious fact that traps are useless in deep water. The incursion of the western bankers on the Labrador has taught the regular Labradorian a lesson. For the past few years when the bankers were going down to fish and getting splendid catches, the Labrador vessels were returning home, many of them with little or nothing. Trawls and fresh bait were abundantly successful where traps failed entirely.

One would suppose that the next season all the Labrador vessels would have taken a fit-out of trawls. On the contrary, a petition was got up to prevent the use of trawls on the Labrador coast; the Fishery Board supported that petition, and the Government is sued a Proclamation to that effect. The Board of Trade protested at such mischievous legislation, but all in vain. The successful trawls were prohibited and the unsuccessful traps were continued. But this season had no sooner begun and the traps again seen to be unsuccessful than a cry for trawls and bait went up all along the shore, and the Fishery Board was forced hastily and ignominiously to rescind their recent regulation. But those who were able to avail themselves of this tardy permission were few, and the fishery has failed.

We are told that trawling can never be a successful method on the Labrador because there is very little bait to be had there. There were very few caplin on the coast in 1909, and this year, I am told, they have failed entirely to appear. So far as I have been able to find out, this has happened several times before. For periods of greater or lesser duration caplin appear to have deserted the coast. Why they come to the shore some seasons and not others has never been satisfactorily explained. And, by the by, what numbers of unsolved problems connected with our fisheries confront us on every side! More shame to us! It is hardly probable that we could do anything in the matter even if we did know, but if bait is a necessity and there are no caplin, we must get something else. About this time last year I discussed the matter with a western banking skipper and he told me that he already had his bait provided for this year, having secured a supply of salted squid. Others tell me that salted squid is no good for bait. I should not have supposed that a hungry codfish nosed round sampling the tempting morsels offered him, and I should like to see a trawl baited with fresh and salt squid alternately and to find out the result in codfish.

Is it the salt that codfish object to? Or is the appearance of the squid so altered that they do not recognize their favourite dish? But if fresh squid are the best bait, perhaps a solution of the matter can be found. The Fish Food Export Co., of which the Hon. John Harris is President and Mr. Sellars, Secretary, have introduced the drying of squid for export to China and Japan, where it is esteemed as an article of food. I think this will prove a valuable adjunct to our fishery and add a tidy sum to the income of our fishermen. It occurred to me that this dried squid might be utilized for bait, and I obtained from Mr. Sellars a few squid and put them to soak in a bucket of salt water. In a few hours they had become soft and to all appearances newly caught squid. I got some practical fishermen to examine them, and their verdict is that it is as good looking bait as any codfish could desire. Is it not possible, therefore, that this dried squid may prove a solution of the bait problem on the Labrador and elsewhere?

Mr. Sellars tells me that they are very easily prepared, requiring only a day or two drying in the sun and making principally in bulk. I hear that there is an abundance of squid in Conception Bay, and I would suggest that all hands set to work and jig squid. Mr. Sellars, I am sure, will be glad to tell how best to preserve them. If the fishermen will do this for their own sakes, I suggest that the Government should authorize the Board of Trade to obtain a supply sufficient to test thoroughly next season whether or no dried squid will make good bait. With bait I believe codfish can always be procured on the Labrador. With its immense archipelago of islands, and range of banks outside the islands, there are about 16,000 square miles of potential fishing grounds on the Labrador coast. A square mile for every fisherman going to the Labrador, and yet they have been quarrelling about trap berths!

For the past four or five years I have urged all the Labrador men with whom I have anything to do, not to depend so entirely upon traps but to fit themselves out with trawls. When they have done so they have succeeded in getting good fares. And if the bait problem can be solved by dried squid, at least another means—and the best means—of taking codfish will be available for our Labrador fishermen.

Yours truly,
W. G. GOSLING.

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MARSHALL BROTHERS.

Items From Bell Island.

WABANA MINE.

Tea was served in the Mission room at the mines on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and a goodly sum was realized for the C. of E. Church.

Dr. Carnochan of the N. S. S. & C. Co. accompanied by his wife spent a few days this week in town.

Mr. J. J. Miller, Chief Accountant with the D. I. & S. Co., returned this week after a brief stay in the Metropolis.

Dr. Guthrie, of the D. I. & S. Co., sailed by the S. S. Sygna, Thursday morning, on a well-earned vacation trip to his homeland. Dr. Lynch of Sydney is acting in his place during his absence.

Mr. H. Rees of Lance Cove, who has been in the office of the Dominion Iron & Steel Co. for the past 5 or 6 years, severed his connection with the Company last week, and left by Sunday's express for the west. Mr. Rees was very popular with all whom he came in contact especially with his fellow workers of the D. I. & S. Co., and takes with him best wishes for his future success from all his acquaintances at Wabana.

Messrs. W. O'Neill, G. Downs, and T. Power paid a flying visit to the Island this week.

The S. S. Cacouna arrived here Tuesday with a cargo of coal to the Dominion Company.

We have much pleasure in joining in chorus with the Evening Herald Correspondent, in urging the Road Board of the Island to soon get to work and have the roads in fit condition for traffic, 'till the fall weather sets in. For a place like Bell Island, the roads are certainly a disgrace and it is to be hoped that this fall will not witness such disagreeable walking as was witnessed in the early spring, when many had to walk to the mines over the D. I. & S. Co. Tramway, the roads being in such a poor condition.

Messrs. Barnes, Coughlan, and

Noonan, who spent the week-end with relatives in St. John's returned on Monday.

Mr. A. Tucker, chemist, with the D. I. & S. Co. has gone on a short vacation trip.

Mr. M. Carbage, one of the Island's foremost business men paid a visit to St. John's on Wednesday.

Rev. Fr. Sapp who was here conducting a mission to the Assyrian colony of the Island, left Tuesday morning on his way home. He will stop off on the west coast awhile as the guest of Rev. Fr. Sears.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Wabana, Sept. 22, 10.

Exporting Nld. Granite.

The schr. Hattie C. Capt. Thomas Keen, is now at Old Bay, near Harbor Breton, taking a load of granite from that place for Pictou, N.S. This granite is regarded by the people of Nova Scotia as being an excellent article for building and decorative purposes, and is the same material as that used in the shaft erected at Cupids to the memory of John Guy. The vessel is taking 160 tons of the stone, and other shipments will follow later.

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The Dull Girl.

The dull girl is usually treated with injustice; most people, sometimes even including her parents, regard her as being of no use, except, perhaps, to serve as a drudge. "She is so stupid!" is the popular verdict, and, both in the school and elsewhere she is, figuratively, placed on one side. The brighter members of the class or the family receive full attention, but "what is the use of trying to teach her?" The dull ones go to the wall, and scarcely ever receive a fair share of the care to which they are entitled.

Every reader can think of a score of similar cases in half as many minutes. We are apt to treat a dull girl worse than a gardener would treat a backward plant; he would tend it and take a delight in bringing it out, whereas we are inclined to push our plant into a dark corner, thus still further retarding its development.

A Hidden Talent.

The chances are that if you watch this dull girl you will detect signs of a hidden talent. Many a girl has been called an idiot because she did not make progress in the particular direction in which circumstances had placed the unfortunate individual, and when this victim of circumstances had had an opportunity in some other line, she had proved herself to be clever. It is the plain duty of parents and teachers to study the temperaments and inclinations of dull children; by doing so they will not only do justice to the supposedly stupid, but also, in many instances, bring credit to themselves for their own cleverness in perceiving that this child was not mentally deficient, but only backward.

For Mrs. Dillon.

Messrs. Kennedy and Bennett, members for the West End, who were out yesterday seeking subscriptions for Mrs. Dillon and family, whose breadwinner lost his life in the recent fire, collected \$200. They are about again to-day. The Laborers' Union are also making up a collection and hope to raise enough money to build a house for Mrs. Dillon.

Flies Over the Alps.

Special to the Evening Telegram. DUMODOSSALA, Italy, Sept. 23. To George Chaves, the Peruvian Aviator, belongs the honor of being the first to fly across the Alps. The daring feat was accomplished in an attempt to win the prize of \$20,000 offered by the Italian Aviator Society of Milan for a flight from Brig, Switzerland to Milan. Chaves, however, was unable to complete the trip having sustained painful injuries when he alighted here. His machine was overturned and he was buried in the wreckage. It is not believed, however, that his injuries are serious. As the airman was seen to be slowly descending a great crowd gathered. Slowly and gracefully he neared the surface and was only about 30 feet above the ground when a gust of wind caught and overturned the machine. It fell heavily carrying the aviator beneath it. Chaves was pinned under the motor and painfully hurt. He had fainted on striking the ground and was bleeding profusely when released from the wreckage. The machine was ruined. Weymann the American first attempted the flight, leaving the table-land at Brig at 1.10 o'clock this afternoon. Later word was received here that he had descended after being in the air 4 minutes. The weather was excellent for the competition, the morning opened clear on the surface, and the haze, that had gathered on the mountain tops, was nearly blown away by noon.

The Turkish Loan Hangs Fire.

Special to Evening Telegram. LONDON, Sept. 23. The question of Turkish Loan of \$30,000,000 which it was reported, was to be handled by foreign group, headed by Sir Earnest Cassel hangs fire. No contract has been signed to place the Loan in London and the English financiers do not believe that it will be placed here. The feeling in the British Government and financial circles is as strong as in France against encouraging Turkey's military policy by enabling her to purchase German guns and warships, especially in the face of the existing strained relations of Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece.

International Union of Seamen.

Special Evening Telegram. LONDON, Sept. 23. With a view to strengthening the seamen's position in the event of an international strike against the Shipping Federation, a conference of delegates, representing 160,000 men and 13 Trade Unions, covering the Dock and Transport workers of Great Britain, has pronounced unanimously in favor of an International Union. Representatives of the French and American Dockworkers were in attendance.

Dr. Cook Discovered.

Special to Evening Telegram. NEW YORK, Sept. 23. Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the vanquished explorer, has been seen again, this time in a Munich Hotel under the name of Mr. Coleman and family. Michael M. Ryan, of Bridgeport, Conn., an inventor and associate of Sir Hiram Maxim, has informed the New York Times, which will publish his account to-morrow, of how he met the Doctor. I arrived in Munich on Aug. 31st, said Mr. Ryan, and on entering the dining room of my hotel I was amazed to see Dr. Cook, his wife, son and daughter sitting at a table. There was no attempt at disguise. I am acquainted with the Doctor, and recognizing him immediately walked over to him addressing him by name. He knew me, answered to his name, and introduced me to his family.

Fugitive Arrested.

Special Evening Telegram. TORONTO, Sept. 23. Charged with embezzlement from the King, Abraham Wishart was arrested this morning on information from the Hon. Mr. Justice Giesbrecht. Wishart was in the police court, was remanded for a week without receiving a hearing. In the meantime it is understood Wishart will employ counsel and fight any steps made to take him back. Wishart is an ex-Sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and was arrested under the new Fugitives Act. Besides for embezzling he is wanted in Ireland to face two other charges, one of fraud and of falsifying the books of the Constabulary. Papers which will be forwarded at once are now being prepared in Ireland, giving charges in full.

AT GEORGE STREET SUNDAY SCHOOL.—George Street Sunday school will hold their Rally Day, Sunday afternoon at 2.30. Will all the workers attend in full force, and do their utmost to have all the scholars with them. A special programme has been prepared for the occasion.

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