

# FACTS ABOUT THE FISHERIES THE GREAT STAPLE INDUSTRY OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY

Information Gleaned From The Report Of The Department Of Marine And Fisheries Regarding The Cod And Other Fish, Catches, Prices And Markets.

The following are the expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending June 30th, 1913, for the Department of Marine and Fisheries:

**Civil Government**  
Appropriation . . . . . \$ 12,513.33  
Expenditure . . . . . 12,513.33

**Lighthouses**  
Appropriation . . . . . \$ 99,220.00  
Expenditure . . . . . 99,112.00

Expenditure less than Appropriation . . . . . \$ 168.00

**Marine and Fisheries**  
Appropriation . . . . . \$140,700.00  
Expenditure . . . . . 121,422.65

Expenditure less than Appropriation . . . . . \$ 19,277.35

**Surplus Trust**  
Appropriation . . . . . \$ 97,433.11  
Expenditure . . . . . 78,727.84

Balance transferred to 1913-14 . . . . . \$ 18,705.27

**Loan Account**  
Appropriation . . . . . \$100,000.00  
Expenditure . . . . . 48,480.39

Balance transferred to 1913-14 . . . . . \$ 51,519.61

**Meteorological Service**  
The Meteorological Service has maintained its high standard, and its forecasts have been, throughout the year, remarkable for their general correctness.

It is pleasing to learn that the Seamen's and Fishermen's Institute has passed through its first year very successfully, and that its statements show that the cost of operation is more than met by its revenues.

In addition to the men's side of the Institute, quarters were during the year opened for females coming to St. John's, either in transit or in search of employment.

The Institute is well worthy of the patronage of all our fishermen, and should be used by them in increasing numbers each year, as it becomes more generally known.

Since commencing operations the new dredge has removed 100,265 tons from the various harbors, as follows:

St. John's . . . . . 17,500 tons  
Wesleyville . . . . . 18,725 "  
Pool's Island . . . . . 850 "  
Valleyfield . . . . . 800 "  
Fortune . . . . . 20,605 "  
Grand Bank . . . . . 16,690 "  
Garnish . . . . . 390 "  
Lamaline . . . . . 10,270 "  
St. Lawrence . . . . . 3,520 "  
St. Mary's . . . . . 15 "  
Newtown . . . . . 6,720 "  
Port au Bras . . . . . 4,160 "

Owing to the nature of the bottom and to the shallowness of the water, which prevented the dredge from entering the Gut, operations had to be abandoned at Garnish. Rock cliff at St. Mary's rendered the deepening of the waters at public wharf there impracticable.

**Some Wrecks**  
During the past year some steamers have been wrecked between Cape Race and Cape Pine.

In this connection I beg to call your attention to a valuable suggestion of Mr. White, the Inspector of Lighthouses.

He points out the varying strength of the tides in this section of the coast, and suggests that captains of

1909	1010	1911	1912	1913
Greece . . . . . 65,209	89,708	42,715	69,280	60,527 Qtls.
Italy . . . . . 380,762	253,542	132,153	212,061	207,617 Qtls.
Spain . . . . . 280,311	199,662	174,711	214,934	248,266 Qtls.
Portugal . . . . . 258,080	321,296	258,523	206,206	203,989 Qtls.

The Brazilian markets absorbed 417,155 quintals, as compared with 423,980 quintals in 1912, 368,794 in 1911, 395,143 in 1910, and 382,180 in the year 1909.

The export of pickled fish was 57,858 quintals, of which 8,302 quintals went to Canada, and 49,556 quintals to the United States.

The price of fish on the local market was high during the whole season, and was well maintained.

The product of the Newfoundland

land allows herself to be on the eight millions of dollars derived from codfish alone.

In the event of a failure in this fishery, it would be well if Newfoundland were able to be in a position to avail of the boundless wealth of the other fishes, at present untouched and undeveloped, as mentioned further on.

In the above figures are not included any amounts for home consumption or for fishes used for bait. This amount is generally estimated at \$2,500,000, but, taking into consideration the high prices which have prevailed during the past few years, this is now a very conservative figure.

**Increase Continues**  
The increase in fish shipped in packages continues, and a greater quantity is yearly being shipped by steamers, either direct or by way of New York or Liverpool.

Direct shipment to Brazil by steam has again been made during the past season.

The trade with Brazil has been practically the same as the year before, and, on the whole, has resulted satisfactorily to the Newfoundland exporters.

The codfishery this season has not been up to the average of other years, in fact, the trap fishery has been a comparative failure along the North and Eastern sections of the country.

From Cape St. Francis South, to and including the South-east side of St. Mary's Bay, the trap voyage has been fairly good, but the northside of St. Mary's Bay, and all around Placentia Bay, the voyage prosecuted by traps was almost a blank.

**Record of Three Months**  
During the months of August, September, and October, codfish became fairly plentiful on all Southern and Western fishing grounds, as was also the case North, with very fine weather and a plentiful supply of squid bait, enabling the fishermen to secure profitable voyages.

There has been a marked increase in the export of green fish from the West Coast to Canada and the United States, which has enabled practically the whole of the late caught fish to be marketed promptly and remunerately.

This has saved an immense amount of time and trouble, during the fall, on fish, which would otherwise have to be cured and dried, and possibly held over for several months.

A notable feature of the season is the fact that caplin were found in greater abundance around the coasts than has been known for many years.

Dogfish were again in evidence,

but were not so numerous as in other years.

**Leads All Others**  
You will notice that, out of a total export of \$10,242,586, as the product of the fisheries, codfish alone is responsible for \$7,987,389.

In all the reports that I have sent you during the past four years, I have laid particular stress on what would appear to be the neglect of the other branches of our fisheries, and the lack of any attempt to develop them in any way.

The waters surrounding Newfoundland and along the coast of Labrador contain immense quantities of halibut, herring, turbot, eels, caplin, etc., which, as far as Newfoundland is concerned, are producing little or nothing year after year.

The halibut grounds to the West are worked by foreign fishermen and at a very fair rate of remuneration.

**The Market Question**  
It is argued that the shore fishermen can find no market for them, and, consequently, do not wish to catch them. This is true at the present time, as far as they are concerned, owing to lack of transportation facilities. At the same time it is known that halibut is more profitable than cod. It can be disposed of, ex ship, in a ready market, does not have to be landed, cured, dried, and reshipped to a distant market, with all the consequent labor and expense.

No attempt has been made during the past season to experiment in this direction, although the schooners of Newfoundland are just as suitable as the Americans, and the cost of outfit is no larger than that usually necessary for codfishing.

**Our Herring Fishery**  
Herring are known to be present all along the coasts, both offshore and inshore, and can be fished in one locality or another from the Labrador, White Bay, Notre Dame Bay, Placentia Bay, Fortune Bay, and the West Coast, for nine months of the year, yet the whole product of the Newfoundland herring fishery is less than half a million dollars a year.

Norway and Great Britain, drawing their herring supplies from no better sources, and handicapped by distance and consequent expense, can produce \$9,000,000 and \$15,000,000 yearly, respectively.

It is known that Norway, as a fishing country, possessed originally no great advantage over the conditions which have governed the commercial finances of this Colony, and if its fishing population, which is only two and a half times bigger than that of Newfoundland, can produce this

amount, our herring fishery could be brought up to rival the codfishery in value within a reasonable time.

**Could Hold Their Own**  
I have been told, on the best authority, that Scotch-cured Newfoundland herring, properly packed and handled, can hold their own in any market, and at very profitable prices.

Turbot can be found in all the deep water bays of Newfoundland, and are most excellent in quality.

The demand for eels in Canada and the States will shortly be in excess of the supply, yet the waters of Newfoundland are teeming with them, and the export last year was two dollars.

The eels can be taken from the waters, which are absolutely unpolluted, and can be exported alive, pickled or smoked.

Edible mussels can be found in immense quantities in our bays, and, while they are regarded as a choice article of food in the cities of the neighboring Continent, are allowed

to remain untouched, and even despised as food by our people.

Dogfish, which, in our waters, are looked upon only in the nature of a pest, are, as a food, more substantial than cod, and in taste, whether salted or smoked, are superior to salmon, halibut or mackerel.

Caplin, while very valuable as a bait supply, are wasted yearly in thousands of tons, as manure, when they could be processed in oil, and exported as a delicious article of food.

Another product of our fishery which is capable of immense development is refined codliver oil.

It is known that, while the Norwegian oil has taken a lead in the foreign markets, there are certain seasons in the year when the Newfoundland livers are far superior in quality to anything ever seen in Norway.

It has been recommended that a model codliver oil factory be erected in St. John's.

(To be continued)

## FIRE SALE!!!

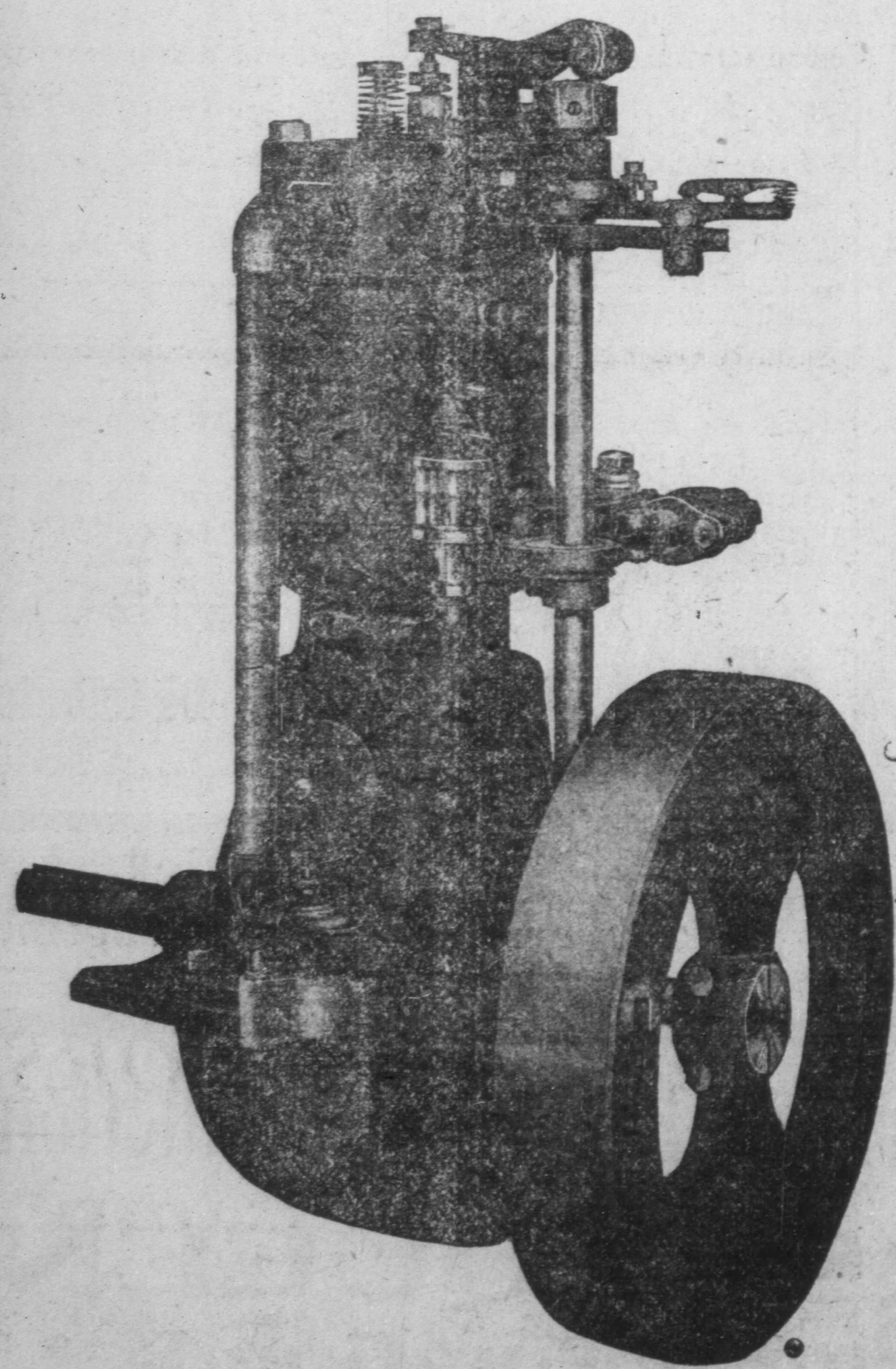
Trouting  
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## READ THIS! To The Fishermen:

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"THE COAKER ENGINE."

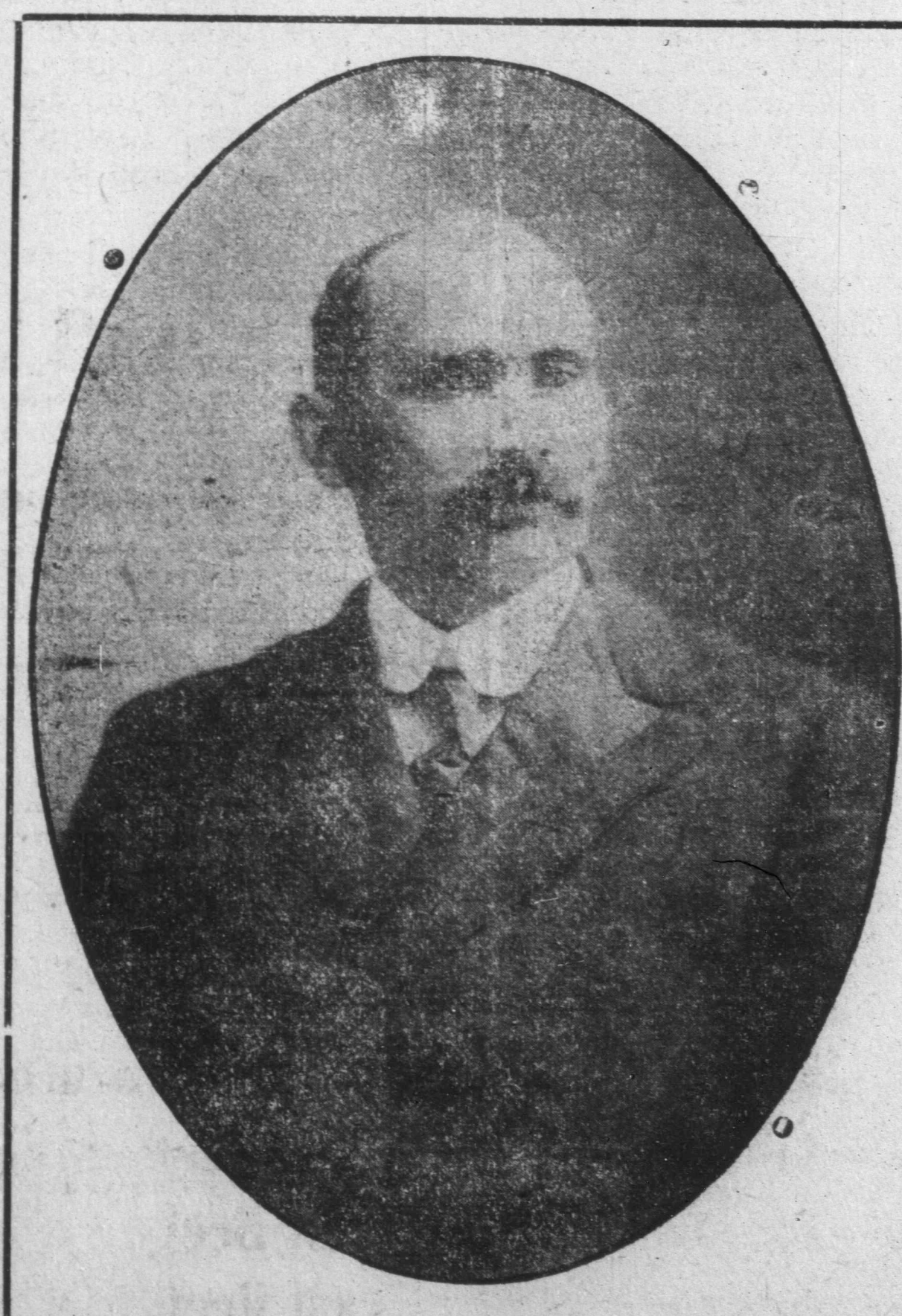
A Motor Engine made for The Union Trading Co.  
by one of the Largest Motor Engine Manufacturers  
in America is now available to the Fishermen.

"THE COAKER" is a 6 H.P., 4 Cycle Engine, and can be operated on half the oil consumed by a 6 H.P., 2 Cycle Engine. This Engine's power is equal to the power of some 9 H.P., 2 Cycle Engines. It is made for Fishermen's use and expressly for Trap Skiffs and the large size fishing bullies. It is sold to Union Members at wholesale prices, all commission and middlemen's profits being cut out. We have contracted for the manufacture of 1000 of these engines. These engines are the favorites carried in stock by us. We have a large stock on hand now at our wharf premises. We carry parts and fittings in stock. We will arrange reasonable terms of payment to meet the requirements of men unable to purchase for cash. **WE GUARANTEE THE ENGINE.** An expert has been engaged to attend to the installation of our engines. Write for particulars and terms, applying to Chairmen of F.P.U. Councils concerning this Engine. We confidently recommend the Engine as being of the very best make and material, of being exactly what is needed for the Fishermen's use and **GUARANTEE TO GIVE SATISFACTION.** It is above all durable, simple and capable of doing heavy work; it is not a toy engine. The spark plug is attached to the side and not the top. The Engine starts on gasolene, and when started operates on kerosene oil.

We have sold 200 of these engines the past spring, and all are giving splendid satisfaction. Our cash price is \$200.00. No other firm can sell you a similar engine. We possess the sole rights to sell this engine. The man who buys a Coaker Engine from us saves \$50. We can ship this engine one hour after the order is received.

No agents will be employed to sell these engines. We will do our work through the Councils of the F.P.U.

We are now booking orders for a 4 H.P., 4 Cycle Coaker Engine. This 4 h.p. Engine is suitable for small trap skiffs and large size fishing punts, and will fill a long felt want.



## The Fishermen's Union Trading Company Limited,