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The Spring of the Wadhams and Other Springs.

(H. F. SHORTIS.)

In the New Year's Eve issue of the Evening Telegram I gave a brief account of the Spring of the Wadhams, so memorable in the history of our country. But of course with the limited space at my disposal I could not attempt to give many particulars of affairs of great interest. At that period our great sealing fleet was at the zenith of its glory, both as regards tee strength, durability and size of our vessels and the ability and success of our famous masters. Very many names of those famous sealing masters are household words amongst us even to this day, and thousands of their descendants hold prominent positions in every walk of life in Newfoundland, as well as in the United States and Canada.

Hence it is that I have considered the article of New Year's Eve somewhat incomplete, as only a comparatively few vessels and masters sailing out of St. John's in that memorable year were mentioned. Of course I gave other notable events and details, but when we view the great number of our fellow-countrymen and their descendants who at present reside in the United States, scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific, we can imagine how interested they are when they see the names of their ancestors recorded in the annals of our great sealing fleet, and the prominent part they have played in building up our country.

It was whilst discussing the old-time sealing fleet with the veteran Capt. Abram Kean a few days ago that he made use of the words, "Why don't you give us the list of the whole St. John's fleet which sailed in the Spring of the Wadhams?" I said, "I thought it could be done." That year 1852, the total amount of seals brought in was 534,378, of which the St. John's fleet of 97 vessels secured 396,121. Of course there were many of the outport fleet discharged in St. John's also, which brings the number landed to 406,439.

SOME SEALING HISTORY.

Those were lively days—a contrast to the sad condition of the present. A few remarks may not be out of place here, before I give the list of vessels that sailed from St. John's in the "Spring of the Wadhams," 1852.

In 1831 the schr. Carrie, Capt Harry Andrews, arrived from the sealfishery with a good trip on March 17th.

1832—Is called the "Spring of the Cats," because of the large number of immature seals brought in. The outfit from St. John's was 152 vessels, 3,294 men. The total number of seals brought in was 508,407.

1833—Was celebrated for the loss of the schooner "Union," Capt. John Delaney, with a picked crew of 28 men from Trinity. She was built by the famous Charles Newhook of New Harbor for John B. Garland, merchant. She capsized while under full sail. The schooners "Active" and "Arrow" took some of her seals, and towed her for two days, but had to let her go. Total catch for this Spring was 650,370.

1843—Called "Bonavista Bay Spring" and another "Cat" year. Most of the seals that Spring were captured in Bonavista Bay. Some even were on the land. Total catch this Spring 651,370.

1844—Called the "Spring of the Growlers." That is,—heavy pans of sunken ice or small icebergs which played havoc with many a good vessel. First arrival was on April 6th. Total catch 685,530.

1846—"Spring of the "Great Fire" in St. John's. The first arrival from the sealfishery was on April 18th, the "Dash," Capt. John Barron, with 9,646 seals. St. John's outfit was 41 sail, 4,470 men. Total catch 265,961.

1847—First arrival was the Kingalock, Capt. Burke, father of Messrs. John and Alick Burke, with 6,400 seals on March 30th to L. O'Brien, followed by the "Triumph," Capt. Manuel, with 2,000 seals, and Emma, Capt. Stevenson, with 4,700—both to Rennie & Stewart, followed by the "Warrior," Capt. Chafe, to John H. Warren, with 3,928. St. John's outfit this year 95 vessels. Brigus 46. Harbor Grace 40. Carbonear 37. Total catch was 436,831.

1848—The "Dash," Capt. John Barron, (surnamed the Great) arrived on March 22nd with 9,500. The first arrival was the Nimrod, Capt. Coady, on March 18th, with 4,000 seals. St. John's outfit was 103 vessels, Carbonear 31, Brigus 30, Catalina 20. Total catch 631,004.

1852—The "Spring of the Wadhams" already partly described.

1853—"White Bay Spring." Many losses this year, but still a paying Spring. Landsmen did very well. St. John's outfit 108 vessels, 3,947 men. Total catch 521,780.

1856—Not a very successful Spring. John C. Nuttall, Esq., sub-Collector of H.M. Customs at Brigus cleared 92 vessels for the icefields, 9,597 tons, 3,493 men. St. John's outfit 72 vessels, 2,855 men. First arrival in St. John's was the "Mary," Capt. John Bartlett with 4,300 seals on April 2nd, followed by the Delmont, 5,400, Margaret, 5,300, Gleaner, 2,800, Jessie Kent, 4,500. Total catch 353,617.

1857—Is called the "Frosty Spring." Fine catches and good seals. First arrival was the St. Filian, Capt. Aide, (familiarly known as "Skysail Jack") with 5,000, on March 23rd to Hunter & Co. The Evanthes, Capt. White, with only 200 seals, the master being very ill. 35 arrivals at St. John's up to March 31st. St. John's outfit 83 vessels, 3,377 men. Total catch 530,733.

1858—Capt. J. Houlahan Sr. in the "Henry Thomas" arrived to Messrs. Thomas & Co. with 12,584 seals. She was 180 tons and carried 70 men. The first arrival was the "Witch of the Wave," Capt. English (father of Capt. Ed. English) on April 2nd with 3,000 seals to W. W. Lemessurier, followed by the "Mary Jane," Capt. Donovan, to J. & W. Stewart with 3000 seals, and the "Aurora," Capt. Pomeroy, with 5,200 seals. Total catch 398,166.

EXTRACTS FROM AN OLD DIARY.

May 29th—"S.S. Victoria," Capt. Terence Halleran, as pilot, left today for White Bay. Her mission was to render assistance to Glindon's and other vessels jammed in the ice. Capt. Glindon was in the brigt. "Sonora" out of McBride & Kerr's employ. May 31st, the Sonora arrived from the icefields to-day. She is the last vessel of the St. John's fleet.

Capt. Halleran was the first to sail in 1858 in the "Arthur Leary." An enormous load of wood was hauled for the Mercy Convent this day, March 1st. A vessel called the "Great Western," built by Mr. Kearney on Water Street, between Rogerson's J. & W. Stewart's, was launched today. April 13, the town of Harbour Grace almost destroyed by fire. Originated at Tousaint's Hotel. April 14th, schr. Lively Lass arrived with 5,800 seals. April 15th, schr. Caledonian arrived with 3,500 seals. She brought in the crew of the Scotch Lass.

1859—It is stated that Capt. T. Halleran and Capt. Harry Andrews fought on the ice last evening (Feby. 28th). March 1st, Capt. Terence Halleran is the first to start on sealing voyage. About 30 others follow during the day. March 8th, A pitched battle took place on the ice to-day between the crews of the Dumbarton, Maggie and Lioness (Bill Power, master). March 9th. All sealing vessels are jammed in the ice. March 11th. About 30 sail of vessels to be seen right off the Narrows. Ninety-one can be counted from Signal Hill. All jammed. March 16th. The last of the sealers got off to-day. March 17th. The Irish Society big dinner came off very successfully. March 27th. The first sealing vessel, "Zambesi," Capt. Terry Halleran, arrived at 9 a.m. with 9,500 seals. Volleys of guns were fired by her crew as she entered the Narrows. March 31st. The Maggie, Capt. Gosse with 4,000 and the Roxana, Capt. Jackman, with 3,100 arrived to-day.

1862—This Spring is called the first "Green Bay Spring," on account of the large capture of seals by landsmen there. Great number of wrecks. Nothing unusual to see a ship burning at the ice. First arrival was schr. Packet with 1,200 seals on April 17th.

1864 — The second "Green Bay Spring." Another great haul of seals for landsmen and more wrecks and failures amongst the fleet. Total catch 125,950.

1866—Capt. John Bartlett (Brigus) in the Henrietta Greene arrived on April 19th with 10,000 seals to Messrs. Baine Johnston & Co., and the Havelock, Capt. St. John, with 4,000 on March 20th to P. & L. Tessier. Total catch 267,209.

1872—Loss of S.S. Bloodhound and S.S. Retriever (Hr. Grace), also brigantine Huntsman with Capt. Dawe, son and many of the crew. Arrival of S.S. Commodore, Capt. Az. Munden on April 13th with 31,314 seals at Harbor Grace. She also towed a quantity (600) on her tow ropes as far as Western Bay. Her cargo was valued at $94,927.35. Total catch 231,244.

1874—S.S. Tigress' boiler burst killing 15 of her crew. First arrival "Havelock," Capt. St. John with 1,844 seals to P. & L. Tessier.

1875—First arrival S.S. Greenland on April 4th with 24,866 seals. Capt. Charles Dawe master. St. Mary's Bay disaster. 13 men perished on the ice. Total catch 370,679.

1876—S.S. Arctic sailed for the Newfoundland sealfishery direct from Dundee, Scotland. First arrival was the S.S. Eagle, Capt. Wm. Jackman, with 12,436 seals on April 12th. Total catch 419,222.

1878—Another "Green Bay Spring." 80,000 seals landed in Green Bay by landsmun. First arrival was the S. S. Falcon, Capt. Arthur Jackman, with 21,190 seals. The schr. "Dawn," Capt. Mullowney, 113 tons, 60 men, supplied by G. A. Hutchings, Esq., sailed for the frozen pans.

1880—Seals taken by landsmen in great numbers from Cape John to Cape Race. The S.S. Walrus, Capt. Joseph Barbour, loaded twice and got a fairly good third trip. Plenty of seals in Green Bay again. S. S. Xanthus lost while on whaling voyage.

1881—Another "Green Bay Spring." 120,000 seals captured by landsmen in Green Bay.

1882 — "Bonavista Bay Spring." Very foggy. S.S. Hercules, Capt. Cross, with some passengers tried her luck, got about 2,000 seals. S.S. Tiger, Capt. Thomas Dawe, crushed in ice, and sank off Cape Ray. S.S. "Thetis" sold to American Government for the Greely Party.

Complete Sailing List.

I hope to give some more interesting items later on, as my space is pretty well exhausted in this issue. Here is the list of St. John's fleet which sailed in the "Spring of the Wadhams":—

List of Vessels cleared for the Seal Fishery from St. John's in the Spring 1852.

Vessels	Masters	Tons	Men
Supplied by Brooking & Son.			
Packet	Rockwood	84	34
Helen Stairs	Sheehan	129	43
Stabb Rowe & Holmwood.			
Charles	Benson	101	40
Lady Young	Geran	121	44
Swift	Geran	65	30
Mary	King	72	33
Pursuit	Knight	135	50
McBride & Kerr.			
John & Maria	Benson	76	35
Elizabeth	Benson	81	35
Scottish Lass	Neil	143	45
Anna	Hally	103	50
Gannet	Cahill	51	21
Avalon	Byrne	45	21
W. H. Thomas & Co.			
Two Brothers	Hopkins	111	40
Caledonia	Houlahan	114	42
Coquette	Houlahan	154	56
Gem	Ebsary	78	27
Baine Johnston & Co.			
Sea Nymph	Pike	187	66
Swift	Woodford	107	45
Triton	Keefe	94	40
Rover	Aylward	88	40
M. A. Fleming	Kearney	154	50
Johanna	Gosse	47	25
Spartan	Cullen	57	30
Eagle	Pike	55	26
Hero	Pike	106	40
Brocklebank & Anthony.			
Prosperity	Brien	84	36
Hecla	Martin	121	44
W. Bowden & Co.			
Creole	Stanton	140	48
Telegraph	Sheehan	135	45
Piscator	Lacey	129	45
R. Alsop & Co.			
Empress	Kennedy	136	44
Ajax	Carew	126	45
Friends	Duff	90	34
Dolphin	Gosse	79	32
Margaret	Meaney	103	35
Brothers	Ryan	70	32
E. M. Dodd	Nurse	67	30
Harmony	Brien	85	33
Active	Brien	76	30
L. O'Brien & Co.			
Kingaloch	Burke	143	45
Normal	Lynch	114	45
St. Margaret	Fitzgerald	98	40
Shamrock	French	143	45
Western Trader	Power	114	43
J. & W. Stewart.			
Kirkland	Lynch	160	42
Chedabucto	Cole	83	35
Resolution	Foran	122	46
Job Bros. & Co.			
Sarah	White	125	50
Delmont	Ashman	122	50
Margaret	Cummins	154	60
T. Halleran.			
Emily Tobin	Halleran	85	32
Hunter & Co.			
Ellen	Halley	96	35
Escape	Cummins	116	45
Howard Primrose	Walsh	90	35
Mudge & Co.			
William	Withycombe	116	40
Cora	Jackman	123	43
R. O'Dwyer.			
Clipper	Gearan	132	45
Lovely Mary	Slivey	135	46
Elizabeth	Silver	117	46
Wilson & Meynell.			
Paudy	Mountain	75	32
E. & N. Stabb.			
Mary Grace	Morey	139	50
Favorite Lass	Rhodes	117	46
Sisters	Chafe	79	39
Georgina	Butler	107	38
J. B. Barnes & Co.			
Iris	Knight	143	48
Hunter	Davis	113	36
D. Steele.			
Champion	Mullowney	115	48
Ann Catherine Monroe	Keough	64	19
Dartford	Jackman	70	34
Queen Victoria	Mullowney	35	19
P. Rogerson & Son.			
Glenara	Graham	126	45
Bridgewater	Knight	106	33
P. Brennan.			
Mary	O'Connor	70	35
W. Blake.			
Christiana	Houlihan	98	38
Hounsell, Shenk & Hounsell.			
Vesta	Bursell	114	44
Orestes	Ryan	154	45
Seaflower	French	121	45
Juno	Prior	100	40
George	Linegar	82	35
Ann	McLoughlan	95	39
Billow	Comerford	60	31
C. F. Bennett & Co.			
Superior	Furneaux	122	41
Active	Pike	54	35
McKay & McKenzie.			
Clara	Power	174	60
Tweed	Shea	94	36
Bowring Bros.			
Lana	Feehan	147	48
Regina	Foster	137	45
Helen	Nosewortby	70	30
J. H. Warren.			
Warrior	Chafe	130	45
John Barron			
Dash	Callahan	160	52
Nimbus	Cody	151	42
Acorn	Walsh	80	35
Isabella	Costella	76	30
James	Barrington	40	16
Clift Wood & Co.			
Morning Star	Woods	40	18

Comparative Statement.

	Vessels	Tons	Men
1848	103	10,046	3,541
1849	58	5,847	2,170
1850	71	6,728	2,574
1851	90	9,035	3,417
1852	96	10,118	3,822

The following vessels sailed from the outports although supplied in St. John's:—

Vessels	Masters	Owners	Amount Insured
Helen	Doyle	L. O'Brien & Co.	£ 525
St. Patrick	Taylor	L. O'Brien & Co.	400
Change	Bemister	M. Curran	750
Three X C's	Green	M. Curran	225
Pelter	Winsor	Peter Winsor	1050
Margaret	Hennessey	McLoughlan	700
Victory	Snelgrove	Snelgrove	300
Lioness	Kellegrew	Kellegrew	750
Gazelle	Barry	E. & N. Stabb	600
Emily	Young	P. Duggan	775
Henrietta	Young	P. Duggan	550
Veronica	Corbin	J. O'Mara	700
Nimrod	Perry	J. Barron	525

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Codfish Steak, 30c. 1 lb. can
Pink Alaska Salmon, 1 lb. can, 25c.
Local Salmon, 1 lb. cans.
Fresh Cod Tongues, 1 lb. cans, 30c.
Maconochie's Potted Fish, i.e. Salmon and Shrimp, Salmon and Anchovy, Shrimp, Lobster, Prawn, Anchovy and Shrimp, Anchovy, Lobster and Tomato, etc.
Pilchards . . . . . 24c. can
Minced Clams . . . . . 24c. can
Shrimps . . . . . 35c. can
No. 1 Lobster, 1 lb. cans.
Durkee's Salad Dressing, small and medium size.

ST. WILLIAMS' PURE FRUIT PLUM JAM. Full 1 lb. Glass Jar, 50c.

ST. WILLIAMS' PURE FRUIT 1 lb. JARS GREENGAGE 55c.

LIBBY'S PEACH JAM, 1¼ lb. Tins . . . . 60c.

KEILLER'S MARMALADE, 4 lb. and 7 lb. Tins.

SHREDDED WHEAT BISCUITS, Niagara Brand, 24c. pac.

HOLLAND RUSKS, 15c. pac.

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