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## Leaves From a Diary and Some Recollections.

H. F. SHORTIS.

For many years few men in this country were better or more favorably known than Capt. John Bartlett of Brigus, one of our most successful seal-killers. Capt. Bartlett represented Port de Grave District for four years in the House of Assembly, and by his sturdy independence and biting condemnation of all matters of a shady or unpatriotic nature, he earned for himself the title of "Honest John," by which he was known over the whole country. Capt. John's record can compare favorably with those of our most famous masters in the old days, but, unfortunately, I cannot give the amounts of seals

brought in by him during the latter portion of his career. I can only give the totals from 1839 to 1862. I could never understand that we can find no records of the sealfishery, codfishery or mercantile marine in the Custom Houses of Conception Bay, previous to the year 1862, and I presume the loss of the records of other days are still more deplorable. However, it is too late now to fret over this unfortunate condition of affairs. The following is a statement of the number of seals brought in by Capt. John Bartlett of Brigus, from 1839 to 1862, in the sealing sailing vessels, Mary and Selina.

Year	Arrival	Seals	Value	wt.	qrs.	lbs.
1839—May 15th	.....	3,151	£1275 14s. 4d.	1188	1	3
1840—April 4th	.....	2,207	1882 4s. 11d.	2287	2	6
1841—May 15th	.....	1,928	1011 7s. 6d.	1123	3	0
1842—April 27th	.....	3,723	1598 1s. 3d.	1392	3	23
1843—April 21st	.....	3,751	1265 16s. 1d.	1197	3	5
1844—April 8th	.....	4,887	2168 13s. 1d.	2005	2	12
1845—May 16th	.....	1,462	631 7s. 3d.	505	0	13
1846—April 6th	.....	3,229	1170 6s. 6d.	1208	1	18
1849—May 14th	.....	4,284	879 0s. 0d.	747	2	0
1850—May 25th	.....	4,898	2410 1s. 0d.	1900	3	21
1851—April 19th	.....	2,293	1239 13s. 4d.	953	3	15
1852—May 5th	.....	1,824	955 6s. 6d.	954	0	22
1853—May 20th	.....	2,336	1658 5s. 5d.	1258	3	1
1854—April 21st	.....	1,444	1029 6s. 3d.	589	3	14
1855—May 2nd	.....	2,518	1863 0s. 6d.	834	3	6
1856—April 2nd	.....	3,229	3294 7s. 5d.	1364	0	19
1857—May 5th	.....	3,163	2067 1s. 2d.	1875	3	27
1858—April 22nd	.....	2,924	1707 15s. 3d.	1236	3	26
1859—May 12th	.....	1,976	1529 13s. 1d.	1030	0	19
1860—May 22nd	.....	2,766	2031 11s. 2d.	1269	2	25
1861—May 13th	.....	2,861	2097 7s. 8d.	1355	2	8
1862—April 25th	.....	2,465	2140 8s. 1d.	1080	1	3

In those days there were quite a large number of old seals amongst the cargoes, and Capt. Bartlett was famous for securing old seals, hoods or harps, if he missed the young fat through being jammed or some other cause. The amount of seals brought in by him in the two sailing vessels Mary and Selina for the above number of years aggregated 69,521, valued at £37,855, weight 28,841 cwt. 3 qrs. 21 lbs., which is not a bad showing for such a long period.

### RECORD BREAKERS.

Still that record has been beaten by many of the old sealing masters,

notably Capt. William Whalen, John Barron, Alex. Graham, William Roberts, surnamed the "Dandy," Edward White, James Wilcox, surnamed the "Britisher," Az. Munden, William Keen, William Kneel, Daniel Green, Terence Holleran, Peter Cummins, Joseph Houlihan and many others. Capt. Ned Purcell was a famous seal-killer in the old days. It was owing to his having brought in a load of small seals in the John and Rachel, belonging to Mr. Walsh on the Beach, St. John's, that a law was made for seals to be sold by weight. Previous to that they were sold at so much a seal. In the very

early days, the seals were brought in round, that is the skin and fat was not removed from the carcass. Pound boards were not used in our sailing fleet at the sealfishery until about 90 years ago. What gave rise to this improvement occurred in Conception Bay, when skipper Grant of Salmon Cove was beating up the Bay with a load of seals. During a sudden strong "faw" off the land the schooner capsized, and the crew were precipitated into the water. They managed to cling to the ropes, and every other available means, until rescued by boats' crews, who witnessed the event and hurried to their assistance. As far as I can recollect in hearing of the event, they were all rescued. But after that skipper Grant fitted out pound-boards which prevented the seals from shifting as they did upon the above occasion and caused the trouble.

### A FAMOUS SEAL KILLER.

But when we come to records, I do not think there was any could equal, and certainly not better, that of Capt. Henry Thomey. Capt. Thomey first took command when he was 20 years of age, the first vessel he went in as master being the Lemon. After that he was in command of the John, Scotch Lass and then the famous brig Isabella Ridley. He may have commanded one or two other vessels. But I have never known nor heard of him coming in without a good trip of seals, and he was in command for over half a century. I am positive that his average for the 50 springs was at least 3,800, a wonderful showing. He lived to a patriarchal age of 92 years, the last of his generation. He reminded one of a giant oak, in the midst of a vast landscape, surrounded by a few shrubs and saplings. Even after he had given up seal-hunting and remained at home, the day the fleet sailed for the ice-does he published his forecast, over his own signature, in the Harbor Grace Standard, and it was often reprinted in the Telegram, and never have I known him to be out in his reckoning as to where the seals were to be found. To give some idea of Capt. Thomey's judgment. One year he was tied on the Wadham Islands for eight days. On the South West corner of the Island on the eight evening there were several old seals playing up in the water. Calling his master watch, Hugh Gordon, he said, "If we get a few miles to the North East, there is where the whitecoats are." At four o'clock the following evening, he had all his crew out killing and panning the young seals, which were plentiful, and they killed a full load, but, unfortunately, some of his seals were taken by other vessels or lost. He secured three quarters of a load. During his whole career it is an established fact that Capt. Thomey never lost a spar or a man. No man was more careful over the comforts and safety of his crew. The model of his famous brig is to be seen in the Museum.

### "THE FROSTY SPRING."

The year of 1857, known as the "Frosty Spring," when some 300 men suffered terribly from being frost-bitten, was a fairly successful spring. Perhaps a list of the St. John's fleet and the amount of seals brought in by each vessel may not be out of place here.

Hunter & Co.—St. Fillan, 5,000; June, 6,400; Punchal, 3,000; Deane, 1,000; Ebergy, 1,200.

Job Bros. & Co.—Evanthes, 200; Margaret, 6,800; Crusader, 5,500; Sophia, 4,200; Charles Cliff, 2,800; Corsair, 2,300; Superior, 3,000; Bandit, 2,300; Evanthes (2nd trip), 1,400; Jane Elizabeth, 1,050; Gladiator, 1,700; Belmont, 1,500; Mary Jane, 1,500; Kingfisher, 1,400.

Bowling Bros.—Wm. Stares, 5,000; Margaret Jane, 5,000; Fanny Bloomer, 250; Darling, 2,900; Margaret, 2,900; Eunice, 1,000.

Brooking & Co.—Ice King, 5,800; Peerless, 9,000; Hope, 3,000; Packet, 2,000; Seafower, 2,500; British Queen, 1,400.

Wm. Hounsell & Co.—Eleanor Davis, 3,300; Wyoming, 5,000; Seafower, 3,000; Pearl, 2,200; Mary, 2,000; Brothers, 2,000; Hunter, 1,700.

(NOTE)—The Eleanor Davis and Wyoming were owned by James McLoughlan, and sold the seals to Hounsell. Capt. Pat McLoughlan was in the brig Eleanor Davis and Capt. James Kelly in the Wyoming. The Eleanor J. Davis, Capt. McLoughlan was lost on a passage from Cow Bay, Cape Breton to New York in August 1863, with all hands, a fine crew of West End young men.)

P. Rogers & Son—Elizabeth, 8,000; Orient, 5,000; Dolphin, 5,000; Victoria, 3,500; Aurora, 2,800; Jessie, 3,800; Gleaner, 2,100; Francis Patrick, 1,550; Mary, 1,700.

McBride & Kerr—Lena, 5,000; Sarah, 3,000; Orion, 4,500; Huntsman, 3,500; Hound, 2,200; Meteor, Flag, 2,500; Naomi, 1,400; Sterling Clipper, 1,400; Alma, 1,700; L.D., 1,400.

Goldridge & Kellogg—Crown, 5,200; Jas. & Wm. Stewart—Vulcan, 2,400; Rooster, 5,200; William, 3,100; Foam, 2,000; Bloomer, 2,200; Romps, 2,600; Flora, 2,100; Chedabucto, 2,300; Hunter, 1,100; Billow, 1,500; Rival, 1,500.

Baine Johnston & Co.—Rake, 3,200; Challenge, 5,500; Balaklava, 4,500; Maggie, 4,000; Emerald, 2,800; Elizabeth, 2,000; Hunter, 2,500; Orator, 2,300; Brilliant Star, 2,000; Eleanor, 1,100; Mary, 1,600; Rosebud, 1,000; Ripple, 1,100; Mary Jane, 1,450.

Stabb Rowe & Co.—Swift, 2,000; Leader, 2,000; Prima Donna, 2,000; Andie, 1,100.

Barron & Fraser & Co.—James Henry, 4,200; Jessie Kent, 2,000; Prince, Edward, 1,600; Victoria, 1,600; Mudge & Co.—Gazelle, 3,000.

W. H. Thomas—Ann Thomas, 3,100; Leader, 2,800; Delmont, 2,800; Henry Thomas, 2,000; Selina, 2,200; Caledonia, 1,500; John & Rachel, 1,000; Dash, 1,300; Frances, 1,000; Catherine, 1,250; Two Brothers, 1,400.

Even Stabb—Three Sisters, 3,100; Sisters, 1,100; Walrus, 2,200.

T. O'Brien—Herald, 2,300; Margaret Ann, 1,100.

R. Alsop & Co.—Dove, 2,500; Isabella, 2,000.

C. F. Bennett & Co.—John Gibson, 1,400; Belle, 1,700.

Cliff Wood & Co.—Bannerman, 1,300.

That year 379,553 seals landed in St. John's, Conception Bay 105,000; Trinity Bay 26,000; Bonavista Bay 7,000; Pogo, Twillingate and Green Bay, 9,000; other parts 4,000 making total of 530,733. In 1859, the following number of seals were landed in St. John's. R. Alsop & Co., 4,061; Wm. Hounsell, 12,756; P. & L. Tesser, 11,550; K. McLea & Sons, 11,832; J. & W. Stewart, 26,158; Stabb Rowe & Holmwood, 14,289; R. O'Dwyer, 20,130; Bowring Brothers, 34,220; McBride & Kerr, 40,234; Baine Johnston & Co., 33,892; W. & H. Thomas & Co., 23,882; Job Bros. & Co., 25,933; L. O'Brien, 9,986; Archibald & Bartlett, 4,769.

### A PROPHECY FULFILLED.

The old sealing skippers were great judges of human nature. I remember a merchant once having occasion to require a master for one of his vessels, and having the utmost dependence in the knowledge of a certain old skipper, the merchant asked him if he could recommend a man. The old skipper was a most eccentric individual, but famous seal-killer. Turning round to the merchant he remarked, "Do you see that man with the bag of bread on his back going on board the Dash?" The merchant replied, "Yes." "Well," said the old skipper, "I feel sure if you give that man a chance he will bring you in a load of seals." And he did, and afterwards became one of our most successful seal-killers. In the year 1871, the famous Capt. James Murphy of Catalina, was in the Mastiff, and he moored on to Belleisle, where he remained for a couple of days. One of his chief officers became uneasy, and told Capt. Murphy he thought they could proceed as the ice was opening up. Back came the reply

from Capt. Murphy, "What do I want to proceed for when the seals are coming to me." And come they did. Belleisle split them, and Murphy and the large portion of the main patch went through the Straits together. About April 7th, I was the telegraph operator in Harbor Grace and Channel office called up. I answered, and the following message was flashed over the wires:

To Ridley & Sons:—"Mastiff just passed Channel, flags flying, level with the water."

(Signed) OPERATOR.

Old Capt. Sam Spracklin of Brigus was the first man who ever went round the island in search of seals, and he secured a full load in the Gulf.

### FIRST CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY.

Capt. John Burke of the Kingsloach fame, in the employ of L. O'Brien, was also a most successful seal-killer. He was a most intelligent and highly educated man, and was the first Newfoundland-lander who received an English certificate of competency as master. He with his son and three of his crew, were lost in the brigantine "Nautilus" in Petty Harbor Motion on January 1st, 1865, on a voyage from Sydney to St. John's. The crew were Mr. Bell, mate; James Tobin, Wm. Dwyer, James Lane, Mr. Sealey (cook), Jas. Tobin, William Dwyer and another man was saved. They were the watch on deck.

The collarless round neck is usually outlined boldly in wool. Tasseled cords are used as girdles on long-waisted frocks.

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The time for Vapo-Cresolene is at the first indication of a cold or sore throat. It is simple to use, you just light the little lamp that vaporizes the Cresolene and place it near the bed. The soothing antiseptic vapor makes breathing easy, relieves the cough, eases the throat and congestion, and protects in epidemics. Recommended for Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Croup, Influenza, Measles, Croup, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, and all the ailments of the throat and lungs. Vapo-Cresolene has been used for the past 40 years. The benefit is unquestionable. Send for descriptive booklet.

### Fashions and Fads.

Suit jackets have revers. Sash ties are at the left side. Suit belts are made of the cloth. The high collar fastens on the side. Evening gowns have draped tunics. Chantilly lace is favored for gowns. Tiny, narrow ruffles mark the hip-line. The formal day dress closes in the back. The new full skirt has a panel front. Fitted coat jackets flare below the waist. The short sleeve is puffed at the bottom.

Suit coats show the uneven hem-line.

The flit is a much used dress trimming.

The double belt is making a appearance.

The semititted beltless coat is smart.

Belted scarfs of fur are worn as simple coats.

The gowns may be embroidered in satin cord.

A toque of silver brocade is teamed with ermine.

Ostrich feather vanity bags are carried for evening.

Metal threads still gleam on the tunics of every sort.

There's an exclusive all-star bill appearing every night on the biggest circuit in the world. The audiences they entertain number literally millions of people. Al Tolson, Billy Williams, Nora Bayes, Harry Fox, Marion Harris, Van & Schenck, Frank Crumit and Ted Lewis' Jazz Band are the headliners on this bill. All these popular stars of the stage make records exclusively for Columbia.

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SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now
.....\$2.00	.....\$2.50	.....\$2.94	.....\$3.00	.....\$3.20	.....\$3.37
SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now	SWEATERS. Our Price Now
.....\$3.44	.....\$4.25	.....\$4.69	.....\$4.90	.....\$5.25	.....\$5.60

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\$1.00 Surprise Package Sale	\$1.00 Surprise Package Sale	\$1.00 Surprise Package Sale

The nicest goods in our Surprise Packages you ever saw for only \$1.00. We will guarantee you your \$ worth in every package. Of course the big inducement for you to buy the packages is that you have a chance of winning one of our big prizes. We have already sent out to lucky winners 1 bbl. Pork, 3 bbls. Flour and 7 tubs Butter.

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