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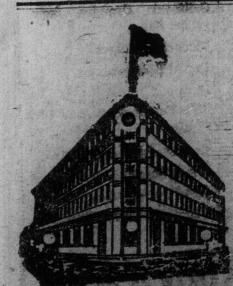


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The Protection of the Lobster Fishery.

AS VIEWED BY FRANCIS H. HERRICK, Ph.D., PROFESSOR OF BIO. LOGY, ADELBERT COLLEGE, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

(Paper read at National Fishery Congress, Tampa, Florida, and Published in Bulletin of U. S. Fish Com-

In the lobster fisheries we have an example of an industry which has increased nearly 150 fold. The value of the products of this industry in the ion dollars in 1880 (\$488,432), and in 1892 over a million dollars (\$1,062,cans of lobsters packed in Canada, having a value of \$2,400,000. The 9½c.; in 1893 it had risen to 14.10c., and at the present time it is 18.72c.

The decline of the lobster fishery is a well-worn theme. The facts with the size of the animal. The law crease in the size of the lobsters producing these eggs varies in erally a luxury.

fishery is plain. The supply has been sters have been annually destroyed than have been annually raised. No number of animals, however large, the average, nearly 13,000 eggs. can stand such a drain. For 25 years the aid of the fishery. It has taken a vacillating course in both the Provinces and the United States, revoking one year what was enacted the year before, adopting this and that suggestion and jumping from one expedient to another. Regard to personal interests, imperfect knowledge of the nabits and needs of the animal itself and perverted logic have characterized much of the legislation which preservation of animal life. There

failed, may have been animated by he right spirit. The problem of perpetuating an animal like the lobster, or rather of maintaining the supply, for it is not in the nower of man to exterminate this species, is certainly a difficul one. In order to discuss this or an similar question profitably and intelligently, it is necessary to set aside pride and prejudice of every kind, whether personal, sectional or national, and consider in a judicial spirit the conditions in which this prob-

lem is involved. We must know the state of the fishery and the principal facts pertaining to the life and habits Until within a few years the life istory of the lobster was very imperfectly known, and this ignorance has nowhere been more clearly refleeted than in the attempts to cure

xisting evils by legislation. Knowng the general facts of the case, we must interpret them in accordance with the principles of science and common sense. The principal facts

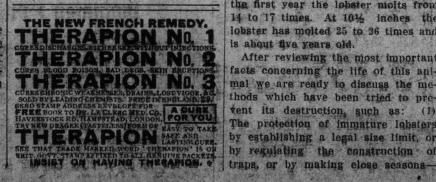
(1) The fishery is declining, and this decline is due to the persistence with which it has been conducted during the last 25 years. There is no evidence that the animal is being driven to the wall by any new or un-

(2) The lobster is migratory only to he extent of moving to and from the shore, and is, therefore, practically a sedentary animal. Its movements are governed chiefly by the abundance of food and the temperature of the

(3) The female may be impregnated provided with a supply of spawn for future use by the male at any time, and the sperm, which is deposted in an external pouch or sperm receptacle, has remarkable vitality. opulation occurs commonly in the ring, and the eggs are fertilized

(4) Female lobsters become sexualmature when from 8 to 12 inches 101/2 inches long are mature. It is rare to find a female less than 8 inch- slight addition of vegetable material es long which has spawned, or one over 12 inches in length which has never borne eggs.

(5) The spawning interval is a bi- and weak. ennial one, two years elapsing be tween each period of egg-laying.



sons of the year-in the fall, winter, (7) The period of spawning lasts about six weeks, and fluctuates creased rapidly in value in a very slightly from year to year. The individual variation in the time of extrusery was valued at \$15,275; in 1891, at ion of ova is explained by the long \$2,250,000. In 22 years its value in- period during which the eggs attain the limits of growth. Anything which affects the vital condition of the fe-United States was nearly half a mil- male during this period of two years may affect the time of spawning. (8) The spawning period in the

(6) The spawning period for the

majority of lobsters is July and Au-

gust. A few lay eggs at other sea-

392). In 1896 there were 14.285.157 middle and eastern districts of Maine Sound, Massachusetts. In 1893 71 average price per pound in 1883 was per cent. of eggs examined from the coast of Maine were extruded in the first half of August.

(9) The number of eggs laid varies

pointing to its gradual but certain of production may be arithmetically decay are too evident to be mistaken, expressed as follows: The number such as the interminable legislation of eggs produced at each reproducon the subject of protection, the in- tive period varies in a geometrical crease in the number of traps, the de- series, while the length of lobsters themselves, and their increase in mar- arithmetical series. According to ket value. Twenty-five years ago the this law an 8-inch lobster produces lobster was common; now it is gen- 5,000 eggs, a lobster 10 inches long, 10,000, a 12 inch lobster 20,000. This high rate of production is not main-The cause of the depletion of the tained beyond the length of 14 to 10 unequal to the demand. More lob- inches. The largest number of eggs recorded for a female is 97,440. lobster 101/2 inches long produces, on

(10) The period of incubation the law of Canada has been called to summer eggs at Woods Hole is about 10 months, July 15, August 15, to May 15. June 15. The hatching of a single brood lasts about a week, owing to the slightly unequal rate of development of individual eggs.

(11) The hatching period also with the time of egg-laving, lobsters having rarely been known to hatch in November and February. (12) Taking all things into consid eration, the sexes appear about equalgovernments have enacted for the ly divided, though the relative numbers caught in certain places at cerare, indeed, praiseworthy exceptions, tain times of the year may be reand legislation, though it has often markably variable. (13) Molting generally occurs from

month of the year in which soft lobsters may not be caught. (14) The male probably molts of-

tener than the female. (15) In the adult female the molt ing, like the spawning period, is a biennial one, but the two periods are one year apart. As a rule, the female lays her eggs in July, earries them until the following summer, when they hatch; then she molts. It is possible that a second molt may occur in the fall, winter or spring, but it is not probable, and molting just beforethe production of new eggs is a rare

(16) The egg-bearing female, with eggs removed, weighs less than the female of the same length without

(17) the new shell becomes thoroughly hard in the course of from six to eight weeks, the length of time requisite for this varying with the food and other conditions of the ani-

(18) The young, after hatching, cut

loose from their mother, rise to the surface of the ocean, and lead a free life as pelagic larvae. The first larva is about one-third of an inch long (7.84 mm.) The swimming period lasts from six to eight weeks, or until the lobster has molted five or at most six times, and is three-fifths of an inch long, when it sinks to the bottom. It now travels towards the shore, and, if fortunate, establishes itself in the rock piles of inlets of harbors, where it remains until driven out by ice in the fall or early winter. The smallest, now from 1 to inches long, go down among the loose stones which are often exposed at low tides. At a later period, when 3 or 4 inches long they come out of their retreats and explore the bottom, occasionally hiding or burrowing under stones. Young lobsters have also been found in eelgrass and on sandy bottoms in shallow water.

(19) The food of the larva consists of minute pelagic organisms. The food of the older and adult stages is largely of animal origin with but consisting chiefly of fish and invertebrates of various kinds. The large and strong also prey upon the small

(20) The increase in length at each molt is about 15.3 per cent. During the first year the lobster molts from 14 to 17 times. At 101/2 inches the obster has molted 25 to 26 times and

s about five years old. After reviewing the most importan facts concerning the life of this ani-mal we are ready to discuss the mehods which have been tried to pretent its destruction, such as: (1) The protection of immature lebsters by establishing a legal size limit, or hy regulating the construction of

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30 baskets Tomatoes. 20 boxes Table Plums ALSO

30 cases Fresh Dates. 500 bags P. E. I. Blue Table Orders booked ahead.

PHONE 480.

Soper & Moore

illegal; (2) protecting the "berried lobster" or females with external eggs; (3) regulating the canning industry, and (4) attempting to increase the supply of lobsters by artificial propagation. It must be admitted that up to the present time all these measures have proved very dis-

The desire to protect the immature lobster and allow it to breed at least once in its life is certainly commendable. It is largely because of the failure of efforts to attain this result that the fishery is now in decline. One reason for this is that there are Fifth Steamer Off no obvious means of determining whether a live lobster has in every case produced eggs or not, and another is that the lobster often matures at a much later period than has size limit in Canadian waters fluctua- gation which are to mark the chanlong; in Rhode Island 10, and in Con- steamer Bellaventure. necticut 6 inches. The Legislature of

close seasons forms a curious piece first of October. of reading. Ignorance of the fact that the lobster carries her eggs for the period of 10 months has been an element of confusion here. In Canada almost every combination of the fishermen and for different sections per copy. of the coast have been tried in vain, but no combination has brought good

or lasting results. The object of a close season is to tect the egg lobster. This has been attempted in the United States and in Canada by making it illegal to sell the "herried lebster." But the object is defeated by the ease with which is defeated by the ease with which this law can be evaded. It is only

A Summer Tale.

"You look irritated this even "I am on warm days like this always suffer from heat rash." "I am liable to heat rash, too, bu it never irritates me; it never has since I began to use Zylex, which at once allays the irritation, physical and mental. And I find Zylex Soap with the Ointment go far to prevent heat rash altogether."

Zylex sells at 50 cents a box; Zylex Soap at 25 cents a cake, at

A Win for Feildians.

The Feildians defeated the Casuals in last night's football match by a score of two goals to one. The game was not marked by any particularly brilliant play on either

side, though both teams gave a fair exhibition of combination. In the first half the Casuals defended the western goal, and after about ten minutes of exciting play Smith beat Lush and landed No. 1 for his team. When the leather was again put into play it was sent flying from goal to goal, and many good chances were lost by wide shooting. When the half time whistle sounded the score stood 1 to 0 in favor of the Casuals.

SECOND PERIOD.

The second half opened rather lively and Noseworthy, of the Casuals, was called upon to save several times After shout ten minutes of good play C. Pendell, of the Feildians, drew first blood for his team with the score equal, excitement ran a little higher and after a clever hit of combination on both sides C. Rendell found the net

The remainder of the game was not very exciting, and when the final tion of dancing by the Mount Cashel whistle blew sounded the score stood boys and the music of the C.C.C. and to 1 in favour of the Feildians.

he line-up was as follows:-

FEILDIANS- Lush, goal; Strang, F. Rendell, backs; Ryall, Tait, Strong, younger sports, and for the more sehalves; C. Rendell, Pinsent, Winter, date young man a quiet game of bil-E. Rendell, Chafe, forwards.

CASUALS.—Noseworthy, g o a 1; Chancey, Kendirck, halves: Smith,

for North.

The Government steamer Minto, which sailed yesterday afternoon been generally supposed. The legal from Halifax, carrying aids to navited from 9 to 91/2 inches between 1874 nels through the Hudson Straits and and 1892. In 1895 the Legislature that approaching Port Nelson, was amended the law, making it illegal to the fifth departure from this port for take lobsters less than 101/2 inches the Hudson Bay this season, the long. In 1895 the legal limit in others being, in order of their sail-Maine, Massachusetts, New Hamp- ings, the steamers Bonaventure and shire and New York was 101/2 inches Acadia, the schooner Burleigh and

the 101/2 limit the next year, but its gang for the purpose of erecting a act was vetoed by Governor Wolcott. lighthouse at the entrance of the Nel-Some lobsters are known to pro- son River. The ship has aboard duce eggs when 8 inches long; there- much of the material for that buildfore, it is said, a 101/2 inch limit is too ing. She will preceed direct to Port great. This cannot be allowed. Nelson and locate her aids in the While a few female lobsters produce river, taking up for that purpose eggs when 8 inches long, the majority about thirty steel buoys. When finat this size do not. The same is ished there she will proceed back to probably true of lobsters 9 and 91/2 Port Berley on Hudson Straits, where inches long. Some lobsters do not she will meet the steamer Aranmore, spawn until after reaching the length which will have left Halifax on the of 12 inches, and the limit of 10½ first of August with coal for the Mininches is none too great. Thus we to. After bunkering, the Minto will see how such attempts to protect the take up the work of putting in aids lobster have failed through the legal- through the straits, which work will ized killing of immature individuals. occupy her for the rest of the sea-The legislation on the subject of son, returning to Halifax about the

"The Nfld. Quarterly,"

will be issued on Saturday, August calendar has been tried. Close sea- 1st, and will be for sale at all Booksons for canning establishments, for stores and Agents in Outports at 10c.

CONTENTS: - Frontispiece, Long Pond, near St. John's; The Newfoundland Tragedy and the Loss of the Southern Cross, with other notable Sealing Disasters (with eight illuslet the animal breed in peace, but trations), by Alex. A. Parsons, J.P.; there is a peculiar difficulty in the Our Dead Seal Hunters—Poem, by M. case of the lobster which makes it A. Devine; In Memoriam—Poem, by impossible to confor any posterior Mrs. E. T. Halbrook Ruel; Some Inimpossible to confer any protection dian Dream Pictures, by Dr. Arthur upon it worth mentioning by a short Selwyn-Brown; Royal Birthday Honclose season. The difficulty lies in the crs, with portraits of Sir Walter E. fact that the animal does not drop its and Lady Davidson, Sir T. G. Roddick eggs in the sea or deposit them on some foreign substance, as the older J. G. Higgins; Years Ago—Poem, by naturalists believed, but carries them Robert Gear MacDonald; What Newon its body. Consequently, in order foundland Offers to Investors, by Rt. to protect the eggs you have to pro-Traveller; Home They Brought Our this law can be evaded. It is only Brothers Dead—Poem, by E. C.; At necessary to scrape the eggs from the Anchor, Poem, by Wm. H. Hayne; The body. Again, to obviate this, at- Knights of Columbus, with photo of tempts have been made to allow the capture of "herried lebsters" and to buy un the eggs from the canneries and hatch them by artificial means. On this point I shall speak later.

(Concluded on Thursday.)

A Summer Tale

Knights of Columbus, with photo of officers; The Drift of the Karluk, with photo of Capt. Robert Bartlett; Some well-knewn Sayings, Phrases and Words—IV., by Arch G. Gibb; Our Royal Visitor, with portrait; The Archbishop's Welcome Home, with portrait; Brief sketch of Capt. G. Barbour, with portrait and photo of S. S. Nascopie; The Call of London—An English Song Cycle: An Old Hunting Ground by Cycle; An Old Hunting Ground, by D. F. Meaney; The Mawson Expedi-tion—S. S. Aurora, from an Austral-

JOHN J. EVANS. Printer, Publisher & Proprietor.

Madame Caillaux, wife of ex-Premier Caillaux, was acquitted last night, after a trial lasting nine days, on the charge of murdering, on March 16th last, Gaston Calmette, Editor of

Bread Cake

Pastry

JOHN B. AYRE

Mount Cashel Garden Party.

The annual Garden Party in aid of Mount Cashel, takes place at the grounds of the Institution this afternoon. An attractive programme of athletic sports, and other novel features will contribute to the enjoyment of those who attend, while the ladies in charge of the stalls will attend to the catering in their usual style. An interesting feature of the athletic programme will be the road race from Torbay to the Garden party grounds, finishing with three laps again, landing No. 2 goal for the of the field. The competitors are pretty evenly matched and an exciting contest is expected. An exhibi-T.A. bands will be two important Mr. F. Brien acted as refered and features of the programme. The baseball game and football fives will also be attractive features for the

liards should meet the necessary re quirements. With ice creams served Bradbury, Sullivan, backs; Stevenson, in all the conceivable flavors, and the many other enjoyable treats offering Goudie, Sinclair, Squires, Chancey, together with a consideration for the object for which this particular event is being held, we bespeak for the affair a liberal patronage.

The Crooks.



beat you, hornswoggle and cheat you, don't profit for long from the kale: for folks who are tricky find Nemesis abandons their sticky - it never abandons their

Massachusetts was ready to reduce carries north a small construction trick's been repeated so often I cannot keep tab; but ne'er has the dufmuch better off for his grab. It pays dwindle like snow when exposed to the sun: like feathers in Tophet is crooked man's mon. The neonle who by Nemesis, Fortune or Fate. I know that the stingers—they think they are dingers, and gloat o'er the coin they don't earn-I know they'll be busted and sick and disgusted, while I still have roubles to burn. I'd rather be hollow with hunger than follow the course that the tricksters pursue: I'd rather be "easy" than do as the breezy and conscienceless gentlemen do. Far better the shilling you've earned by the tilling of soil that is harder than bricks, than any old dollar you manage to collar by crooked and devious tricks.

Mex Mason

