

is a striking illustration of what steam is doing for the extermination of the whale in the Pacific. There will be no restriction. The whale fishery by sailing vessels has for some time been unprofitable. What the sailing craft would not do in a lifetime of years the steam whaler will pretty effectually accomplish in a very few years.

MINOR NOTES.

A LARGE SKATE.

At Astoria, on June 20, two salmon gill-net fishermen brought in a very large skate, which had become entangled in their net at the mouth of the river. It was landed at a cannery, and was said by a number of people who saw it to have been the largest skate ever landed in Astoria. Its greatest width was 5 feet, its total length was a little over 6 feet, and its weight was 150 pounds. A Chinese salmon-dresser was engaged to open the fish; its alimentary tract was found to contain a number of crabs (*Cancer magister*), some of which were almost whole. The Chinese cannery hands watched the evisceration of the skate very intently, and when the opportunity came hastily made off with the intestines, which are, by them, considered a great delicacy. From a sketch made of this skate and an examination of the teeth the specimen has since been identified as the big skate (*Raja cooperi* Girard). It is the largest representative of the genus on the Pacific coast, and is said by Jordan & Gilbert to have an egg case nearly a foot in length. According to these authorities, it is abundant from Monterey to Sitka.

FISH IN LOS ANGELES MARKET.

At Los Angeles, on June 5, the following meager representatives of the rich fish fauna of the coast of Los Angeles County were seen in the market, which is supplied by the fishermen of San Pedro:

Seriola dorsalis. Yellow-tail. One fish weighing 25 pounds.
Orcynus alalunga. Albacore. One weighing 25 pounds.
Sarda chilensis. Bonito. Two having weight of 8 pounds each.
Halicheres semicinctus. Kelpfish. Several weighing about a pound each.
Sebastichthys, species. Rockfish. A number of these fish, belonging to several species, were on sale.
Leptocottus armatus. Sculpin. A few.
Paralichthys californicus. Halibut. Several.
Oncorhynchus choulcha. Salmon. A few from San Francisco.
Microgadus proximus. Tomcod. Common.

Some anchovies (*Stolephorus ringens*) prepared as "Russian sardines" were also seen.

FRESH-WATER CRAWFISH.

The business of taking crawfish for market is of very recent origin, and their utilization is as yet limited. Several species of the genus *Potamobius* are found in the west coast States, but they are taken only in a few localities. They may be seen exposed for sale in San Francisco and Portland. They are especially numerous in the sloughs of the Columbia and Willamette rivers, from which the greater part of the supply is now drawn, although they occur in great abundance in suitable situations throughout this region. On June 18 several hundred remarkably large and fine-looking crawfish were seen at a fish-stand in Portland. Some were somewhat over 6 inches in body length.