

An undoubted specimen of the Spanish mackerel, male, *Cybium Maculatum* of the United States, was caught by hook at New London, Queen's County, on the 7th of September. It is rare to find this fish in so high a latitude.

COD, HAKE AND HADDOCK.

The fishery of cod, hake and haddock has been poor, for reasons not wholly to be explained. In the first place the fish were scarce on their respective grounds, and, in the next, the fishermen finding that good mackerel were striking in adundance, devoted their attention mainly to the latter fishery. At all events cod, hake and haddock together show a decrease of \$60,775. Which is more than made up by the increase of \$97,842.20 on mackerel. In some localities so few haddock were taken that the Wardens in their returns lump them with cod. The fishing commenced about the 10th of June. Those taken throughout the season were about average size and quality. It is doubtful if any quantity worth noting was caught within the Canadian three miles line.

The truth is that cod fishing has now become a fishery of the deep sea. It has receded and is yearly receding farther from our shore. A cod fisher of eleven years' experience assures me that the cod fishery was formerly a sure thing in five or six fathoms of water, but that now it is by no means as good at twelve fathoms or deeper, that depth being about four to five miles off the land. In English waters the best fishing is at twenty-four fathoms and even out to sixty. To go out and remain at five miles distance from the land requires superior boats to those that our shore fishermen possess, and it is mostly beyond their individual means to procure better. The principle of partnership in a good sea-going outfit is as yet little understood or acted on, although it is freely admitted that something of the kind must be done to make the fishing profitable. It may be mentioned that some remarks thrown out in last year's report regarding a better class of boats seem to have met with consideration, for several communications have reached me on the subject. The opinion of fishermen is that cod are always in or near certain localities in the gulf, and could be found if boats were fitted to reach them. As at present pursued the cod fishery lasts about one hundred and thirty-three days, from about the middle of June to the middle of October, after which the weather becomes broken.

A number of boats, mostly from Caraquet, N.B., have been fishing off the north of the island, and are much complained of for throwing gurry overboard. Their catch of fish does not appear in the accompanying returns, except 2,500 lbs. of cod sounds landed and sold at Cascumpec. These small crafts fish closer inshore than the Americans do, and consequently do more injury to the boat fishings. A partial remedy might be provided by an Order in Council directing that all fishing vesselsplying their trade in Canadian waters within the Bay of St. Lawrence shall be furnished with gurry tubs or kits. It is asserted, but I have no means of verifying the assertion, that an order similar to this is in force on board American fishing vessels in American waters. Evidence accumulates that the cleaning of fish afloat is a most destructive practice, and several authentic cases have been found this season where fish have been destroyed by swallowing backbones or other offal. It is impossible that the shore Wardens can prevent the abuse from taking place at sea, but any Canadian fishing craft putting into port without gurry kits on board might be made liable to seizure.

It is worth mention that one of the storekeepers in Summerside, Prince County, has imported his retail supply of dried cod fish from Gaspé, finding the fish of that coast larger and the quality better. A good beginning has been made by a firm at Georgetown, King's, and another at Miminigash, Prince, in introducing the manufacture of boneless cod and hake put up in boxes for family use. The product is attractive in appearance, and when it is better known will doubtless make its way in public favor.

The authority in Gloucester before referred to states, of date 14th October, that the twenty-seven American vessels cod fishing in the bay had then caught 20,000 quintals.