

# Whaling: A New Industry on Vancouver Island.

Hunting whale in the Pacific side of the Arctic is an innovation. For years the industry has been profitably carried on in the far north, but not until the present have any arrangements been made for any new departure in the business. The plans which Captain S. Balcom of this city has in hand are attracting widespread interest, for he is the first Victorian to embark in the industry, and in addition he is the first to introduce modern methods in the art of killing the most dangerous mammal that inhabits the deep.

To make the business pay it will be necessary to kill about ten a month. The method to be employed is most interesting. The Orion when she approaches a whale will wait until she gets within good range. Then from a small cannon on the forward part of the deck a harpoon will be fired. Attached will be a bomb, which will explode once the animal is struck. At this moment the whale will either be killed immediately or it will be hurt sufficiently to infuriate it. Attempting to escape it will draw the steamer and all with it for a time, then it circles around, and it behoves the

land, where a "factory" or refinery converts the blubber into oil and the flesh and bones into guano. The Norwegians originated this enterprise, and on their coast it has attained surprising dimensions in thirty years. In 1885 no less than one thousand two hundred and ninety-eight were killed, but through the gradual extermination they have become more rare, so that in 1900 only four hundred and ninety-eight whales were taken. Still, the business is so economically conducted and Iceland is now providing a whaling ground that a fleet of thirty steamers is employed, and a kill of twenty-five fish is a paying one for any of these.

To the average landsman a whale is a whale, and nothing more. All whales look alike to him, and are only bigger fish than others. While this paper is not a scientific treatise, the presentation of a few facts regarding these creatures will enable the reader to follow it more intelligently.

First, a whale is not a fish, but a marine mammal, probably descended from hoofed animals, which ages ago took to aquatic life—at first in fresh water and afterward in the open sea. The fish-like form of these gigantic creatures is entirely due to the condition under which they live, and is in no sense indicative of relationship. Their fins are merely remnants of the pedicel extremities formerly used, and they suckle their young as do cows. In the second place, whales naturally fall into two great groups—those with teeth and those which possess none, but have the upper



Humpback whale hauled out on slip. The man's hand is on the baleen, the "whale-bone" of commerce.

decades has been sent into the Arctic to search for the more valuable species of these animals, would discard the ordinary humpback seen off Vancouver Island coast because of the comparative little value to be found in the latter's carcass in the way of bone and oil. A large fleet goes into the Arctic annually equipped for a two or three-year cruise, wintering as a rule off Herschel Island, and in the summer busying themselves in hunting. The season, however, is short, and with antiquated methods, two or three killings are considered a good

steamer to keep out of the way. During this time the whale sinks below the surface. It has been known to descend until it parted the heaviest line. In consequence a very pliable and strong line is used in the business, and that which will be in service on the Orion will be a magnificent rope of Russian hemp as soft almost as silk. Anything harder would be worthless for it would be impossible to fire a harpoon with any degree of accuracy with a line that was other than very pliable.

As gunner and captain the Orion will have a man in charge in Capt. Nils Nelson, a very capable navigator and whaler. He knows all the tricks of the big sea monster, for he has killed the animal both on the Norway and Japan coast. What happens after the whale has been struck and towed ashore is well described by P. T. McGrath in last May's issue of the Cosmopolitan. What he says about the industry and station on the Atlantic will apply with equal interest to the station at Bamfield and the business on the Pacific. The story is as follows:

Basques, the cumbersome appliances and heavy craft of the Dutch and Massachusetts, the hand-harpoon and rowboat of the deep-sea whaler of later years, all have served their turn and must now give way to more perfect devices of chase and destruction. Indeed, they would not suffice for the hunting of the rorquals at all, for these are the fiercest of all the whale tribe. The Arctic whale is timid and inoffensive to a degree, so that a bird alighting on its back as oftentimes sufficient to send it off in alarm. It is aroused only by its maternal instinct, and will defend its young with the greatest boldness. But the rorqual is fearless and inquisitive, and has not yet learned to fear its greatest enemy.



A whaler with three prizes in tow.

year's work. It will not be so with the Orion. This little vessel, which will be ready to enter upon the work of Vancouver Island, will have a very poor month's results if she does not get at least twice this number.

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The Greenland, Arctic, black or "right" whales (to distinguish them from their less valuable kindred) are restricted to the circumpolar seas. They supply the best whalebone, or baleen, which is usually ten and occasionally fifteen feet long, the arched formation of their heads admitting of these extreme lengths. The rorquals are widely dispersed over the waters of the globe, but as their baleen is from three to five feet long and they were very difficult to kill by the old-time methods, the chase of them was not taken up until the falling of the Arctic "fishery" compelled the hunters to look abroad for other quarry.

the species of peril which arises in attacking such ocean leviathans from small boats, is lacking. Rorqual-hunting typifies the triumph of modern business methods over antiquated standards. Excitement, variety, sport, adventure—these are secondary considerations, the essential factor being the speedy and certain killing of the creature and the ultimate conversion into marketable products of every item of its anatomy.

approaching ship. Into this gun the harpoon is fixed, upon the cartridge of gunpowder which expels it. The harpoon is a massive bolt some six feet long, consisting of a head, body and tail. The head is a conical projectile, filled with explosive, imbedded in which is a time-fuse that fires the shell two seconds after it strikes the whale. The body consists of four stout arms or barbs, fixed at right angles to one another but fastened together by a bundle of sticks. The tail is a shaft extending rearward, and to this the line is fastened—a piece of pianit, five-inch manilla, light but strong,



The head of a harpoon, the projectile which, charged with explosive, is fired from the harpoon-gun.

## JUDGMENTS GIVEN IN FULL COURT

### STREET ENDS CASE DECIDED FOR C. P. R.

### Decision Reversed in Award of Damages to Plaintiff in Morgan vs. E. Y. N. Company.

All the judges of the Supreme court were in attendance at the sitting on Saturday, when a number of judgments were handed down. Attorney-General vs. C. P. R. was an appeal from the judgment of Mr. Justice Irving, taken by the attorney-general of the province. It is commonly known as the Vancouver street ends case, being one brought by the attorney-general at the instance of Vancouver city. The object was to restrain the C. P. R. from closing the ends of streets which ran down to the water edge along the route of the railway company. The judgment of the trial judge was upheld, the appeal being dismissed. Chief Justice Hunter in his judgment decided that the Dominion had the power to expropriate any land for right-of-way for a railway built under Federal authority. The C. P. R. was to be built to the seaboard. It was not limited to stop at any particular point, and therefore the right to land was established to whatever point was selected. Mr. Justice Martin in his judgment

could not see any reason for disturbing the judgment of the trial judge. The Dominion parliament had power to take the necessary lands, no province or corporation had the power to stop it. Municipal or provincial lands could be taken for Federal railways. If it were otherwise, the railway could not acquire all the rights intended. It might be blocked at any point. He further alluded to the fact that this was a great national work. It was also undertaken at the request of British Columbia. It was therefore doubly clear that the province could not interfere with the right to acquire lands.

Mr. Justice Morrison agreed with the judgment of Mr. Justice Martin. Mr. Spinks asked leave to appeal to the Privy Council. Formal leave will be granted later.

In Peck vs. Sun Life Company, Mr. Justice Duff delivered the Full court's decision. This was a New Westminster case. The plaintiff had purchased a piece of property from Mrs. Elliott. After considerable land had been paid a transfer of property which had been made between Mr. and Mrs. Elliott was set aside and the Sun Life Company became a party. The contention of the plaintiff was upheld, this being that the amount of the purchase money unpaid was the only charge against the plaintiff. The costs were to be borne by each party.

Centre Star vs. Rossland-Kootenay Mining Company was decided on a judgment being given by the Chief Justice for the Full court. It was to the effect that the plaintiffs were entitled to nominal damages of \$10. The defendants were also held to be responsible for preventing damage to the property of the other company.

Morgan vs. British Yukon Navigation Company was an appeal from the decision of Mr. Justice Drake and a jury when the plaintiff was given \$12,000 damages in consequence of an accident which resulted in the amputation of his

leg. The Chief Justice delivered judgment for the Full court. It was held that no negligence was shown on the part of the company in the first case when the injury was received. In the second case the company was in no way responsible for any damages in consequence of the captain of the steamer having transferred the plaintiff at his own request to a boat in order to be taken to Dawson for treatment. The appeal was dismissed with costs.

### FAVORS VICTORIA

### J. A. Lindsay Fute Forth. Claims of City as Terminus For Grand Trunk Pacific.

A Montreal dispatch to the Winnipeg Telegram gives the following interesting interview: "J. A. Lindsay, assistant to the president of the Wellington Colliery Company of British Columbia, is at the Windsor, accompanied by the company's solicitor, R. T. Elliott, also of Victoria. These gentlemen came east to watch the progress of legislation at Ottawa, touching the transfer of the Esquimaux & Nanaimo railway, some 70 odd miles in length, to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

"During a conversation they expressed the opinion that the measure would pass all right, and the transfer of the road would take place in due time. "Mr. Lindsay said that most interest is felt on the coast about the choice of the Pacific terminus for the Grand Trunk Pacific system, and he makes the announcement that the city of Victoria would be willing to give the company a very liberal bonus if it would locate its Pacific terminus at that port.

"He says that work is so serious in bridging the Seymour narrows and carrying the line down

the Island a hundred miles or more to the city of Victoria. Of course there would be engineering difficulties to overcome, yet the entire series of bridges required to carry the trains of the Grand Trunk Pacific across Seymour narrows from the mainland of British Columbia to the Island of Vancouver would not cost more than the original expenditure which Canada and the old Grand Trunk made on the Victoria bridge to connect the city of Montreal with the south side."

### ROSSLAND CAMP.

### Output For Year to Date Exceeds One Hundred Thousand Tons.

Rossland, April 15.—The reliable mines of the camp continue to keep up their regular tonnage of ore, and a large force of men in getting out the ore and in doing development work so that the output may be kept up indefinitely. The mines of the camp have produced already this year over 100,000 tons of ore. If the same ratio kept up for the balance of the year the total output should be in the vicinity of 340,000 tons, which was practically the output of last year.

From the energetic manner in which the mines are being operated, the probabilities are that the balance of the year will show considerable of an increase and bring the total for the year up to about 400,000 tons, which would be larger than that for the most productive year the camp has yet seen, which was 1903, when the output reached a total of 377,134 tons.

The tonnage of ore shipped from and crushed at the Rossland mine for the week ending to-night was as follows: Le Roi, 2,050 tons; Centre Star, 1,643 tons; War Eagle, 1,170 tons; Le Roi No. 2 (milled), 400 tons; Le Roi No. 2, 120 tons; Jumbo, 100 tons; Eclipse, 270 tons. Total for the week, 5,733 tons; and the total for the year, 102,337 tons.

### LEAVING FOR COAST.

Presentation to Color-Sergeant Clarence, of the Winnipeg Regiment.

Winnipeg, April 15.—After drill last evening the sergeants of the 90th Regiment gathered in the mess room to say good-bye to Color-Sergeant Clarence, of G. company, who leaves to-day for Vancouver. The rooms were filled with the sergeants and their friends, with Sergeant-Major Morley in the chair. In a brief speech the chairman expressed the regret of his comrades in the loss sustained in the departure of Sergeant Clarence, and presented him with a gold locket, on which the cipher of the regiment and a suitable inscription was engraved. Col. Chamber, Adjutant-Captain Baker and Paymaster-Captain Harrison all expressed their high appreciation of his worth as a soldier.

### POSTS FOR R. M. C. MEN.

Graduates Will Receive First Consideration in Appointments to Permanent Corps.

Ottawa, April 15.—Military orders state that hereafter all the first appointments in the Canadian permanent engineers and artillery and every alternate commission in the permanent Canadian mounted infantry and ordnance corps will be offered in the first instance to Royal Military College graduates. Three commissions will be provided should vacancies exist for the graduating class.

THOMAS HOSKINS'S NERVES.—Mr. Hoskins, a resident of Durham, Ont., for a score of years, was a martyr to stomach and nerve disorders. Suffered to prejudice against "patent medicines," he started using South American Serravallo, he says, "the last resort," but six bottles of this great remedy proved to be his salvation practically. It can be yours.—124.

### JOE JEFFERSON.

Physicians Say Reports of Veteran Actor's Illness Have Exaggerated Seriousness of Case.

### SHOT BY JEALOUS WIFE.

Colorado Springs, April 14.—A special telegram from Cripple Creek says: Mrs. W. D. Vidler, the wife of a well-known newspaper man, shot and instantly killed Mrs. H. C. Douglas, of Colorado Springs, in the National hotel yesterday. Jealousy is supposed to be the cause of the crime.

Mrs. Vidler, who was very much excited, rapped on the door of a room in which were Mr. Vidler and Mrs. Douglas. Mrs. Vidler opened the door. His wife entered and immediately shot Mrs. Douglas in the breast.

Mr. and Mrs. Vidler were arrested. They have three children, the oldest 11 years of age, but have not been living together of late. After the shooting Mrs. Vidler became hysterical and bewailed her act. She was released on a bond for \$5,000.

No charge was made against her husband, and he was set free. BAD HEART—COULD NOT LIE DOWN FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS.—"I was unable to lie down in my bed for eighteen months, owing to a distressing spell caused by Heart Disease. One bottle of Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart removed the trouble, and to-day I am as well as ever."—L. W. Law, Toronto Junction.—123.

### NEW OFFICIALS

Elected at Meeting of Directors of the National Railroad in Mexico City.

Mexico City, April 15.—The meeting of the directors of the National railroad yesterday resulted in some surprises. J. B. Metcalf, first vice-president, and J. C. Mackie, second vice-president, both lost their positions. T. N. Brown was elected president; D. P. Bennett, vice-president; J. P. M. Fraser, treasurer; A. Velloso, general counsel; M. M. Reynolds, comptroller; A. Aring, secretary and J. H. Guess, assistant treasurer. The posts of first and second vice-president were consolidated into one position.

### PREDICT CHOLERA.

Doctors Fear Outbreak Will Follow Epidemic of Cerebral Spasms.

### RESULT OF QUARREL.

Geneseo, N. Y., April 15.—A quarrel family quarrel today Antonio Sparacchi, an Italian, who lives in this village, shot his wife, her mother and his daughter, and then shot himself.

### CHALLENGER DEFEATED.

London, April 15.—H. L. Doherty again won the covered court tennis championship to-day by defeating the challenger, J. G. Ritchie, at the Queen's Club by 3-0.

**DR. WEAVER'S TREATMENT.**  
**WEAVER'S SYRUP**  
 For Humors  
 Salt Rheum  
 Scrofulous Swellings, etc.  
**WEAVER'S GERATE**  
 Cleanses the Skin  
 Beautifies the Complexion.

Combined, these preparations act powerfully upon the system, completely eradicating the poison in the blood.  
 Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd., Montreal.

way the poorer classes consume it, and farmers grind it and mix it with milk for cattle, finding that it adds greatly to the richness of the milk. The Japidease are also very fond of whale-meat, and the steamer Windward, which carried Peary to the Arctic, was recently taken from Newfoundland to be used in whaling in the Japan seas. The first year a factory was started in Newfoundland, the cod-fishery failed in the neighborhood of the station, and scores of boatfolk for miles around came and took away boatloads of the meat, to help them face the long, hard winter.

Such was the fame of this Newfoundland whaling factory, that the National Museum of Washington dispatched a party of scientists there in June, 1903, to secure a complete plaster mould of a sulphur-bottom at least seven-five feet long from which to make a papier-mache model for exhibit at the St. Louis exposition this summer in the Natural History pavilion. The expedition was eminently successful, a bull whale seventy-eight feet long being taken at Balena factory, where the scientists established themselves. From this they made their cast, and after the flesh had been subsequently stripped from the carcass, they purchased the skeleton, to be exhibited alongside the paper duplicate. The latter has been made at Washington, being put together in sections, to admit of the transport by rail to St. Louis, as no railway car could accommodate it complete. For the same reason, the skeleton had to be disjointed, except the head, which was taken whole, it making a package nineteen by nine and a half feet, and weighing five tons. They brought away pieces of the whale's skin, preserved in formalin, so as to reproduce the markings and colorations of the body; and they aim to model it in perfect anatomical proportions. The cost of the undertaking has been about seven thousand dollars.

The profits of this whaling enterprise are almost incredible. Some Norwegian companies have paid as high as three hundred per cent, and the Newfoundland ones are already paying forty to fifty. The baleen is worth eight hundred dollars a ton. These prices amply compensate for the expense and hazards of the hunt. The baleen is used in making whips, saddlery, corsets, dress materials and other goods. The fin-bones are converted into artificial feathers. The oil goes to soak jute for manufacturing purposes, or becomes an ingredient in high-class soaps. The guano is in great demand as a fertilizer. The utilization of all these constituents is what makes the industry so successful. In the case of whaling, the carcass was abandoned once the blanket of blubber was stripped off.

### BOUNDARY MINES.

Phoenix, April 15.—The Boundary shipping list has the Winnipeg mine thereon this week.

Following are the shipments from the several mines for the last seven days: Granby mine, to Granby smelter, 11,000 tons; Mother Lode, to B. C. Copper smelter, 2,592 tons; Brooklyn to Montreal & Boston smelter, 3,187 tons; Rawhide to Montreal & Boston smelter, 319 tons; Mountain Rose, Montreal & Boston smelter and B. C. Copper smelter, 232 tons; Oro Denro, to Granby smelter, 165 tons; Winnipeg, to Granby smelter, 150 tons; Dominion Copper Co., St. Mary's dump, to Trail smelter, 450 tons; Skyhawk, to Granby smelter, 30 tons. Last Chance, to Montreal & Boston smelter, 25 tons. Total for the week, 19,050 tons; total for the year, 267,113 tons.

The three district smelters treated as follows this week: Granby smelter, 10,700 tons; B. C. Copper smelter, 4,260 tons; Montreal & Boston smelter, 4,120 tons. Total for week, 16,479 tons; total for year to date, 271,643 tons.