

Sir John C. Crosbie Interviewed.

Member For Port-de-Grave Discusses Trade Conditions Abroad.

(Courtesy of Daily News.)

THE FISH REGULATIONS.
You ask me what my opinion of the Fish Regulations have on the foreign markets. In reply I say: from what I learned on the other side from different parties interested, and from fish buyers in Portugal and Spain, as far as they were concerned they were not worried, as they would endeavor to purchase their supplies elsewhere. For instance, they were making arrangements for certain quantities of Norwegian and Iceland fish, and some supplies from England and Scotland, whose fish merchants were imitating our cure of codfish, and, of course, preferred doing business with people who would give them reasonable terms, etc., which they could not get from Newfoundland shippers.

IMPENDING BRAZIL IS HALIFAX'S GAIN.

During my time in London, I found that the stocks of Newfoundland fish in Portugal were 60,000 quintals with very large consumption; but, unfortunately, each week's consumption was made up with fresh arrivals from Newfoundland, and really the consumption did not help very much to increase the prices, and judging from my information, shippers had sent too much small fish to this market which helped to keep the large fish there. I am of the opinion from this information that, if Brazil buyers had been allowed to buy from us last winter on the old terms, a lot of this small fish would not have gone to this market, and, therefore, no competition would have taken place at Oporto; but by refusing Brazil the old terms they purchased their fish in Halifax, and we lost the sales.

CONDITIONS IN PORTUGAL.

The present position in Oporto today, with the prices set by the Regulations at 75s. for No. 1 and 70s. for No. 2 is somewhat mysterious to the Portuguese buyers. They were not asking for a reduction in No. 1 fish, but were quite prepared to take this at 75s. for equal cargoes; but the Regulations, by putting No. 2 at 70s., gave them an advantage of 5s., and a result to the shippers here of the same amount, as in previous years the fish went to Oporto to meet the average quality, and buyers were satisfied more or less. The financial situation of Portugal is in a bad condition.

tion, sterling exchange is poor, which has a damaging effect on the price, and my advice to shippers is to make their cargoes as small as possible—between two and three thousand quintals—which the Portuguese buyers can finance much easier. At the present rate the escudo is worth about one-fourth its pre-war value, and the actual cost to Portuguese consumers will be not 70s. but about 280s. per qtl. The standard rate of the escudo in war times was considerably higher, it is now down to 11d., which will make a very great difference in the cost to the consumer and will make consumption much less. One of the things which helped us with regard to Oporto was the great scarcity of coals for trawlers; they could not fish outside, therefore there was no fresh fish, and Newfoundland practically controlled the market until the Norwegian and Iceland fish arrived and prices began to decline a bit.

THE WEST COAST EMBARGO.

In my opinion, the result of holding up the cargoes of the West Coast fish will be very serious, more serious than most of us can realize, as shippers are fully aware that fish always went from the West Coast in July and was consumed fairly rapidly, and it simply means that the markets in the spring will be more or less overstocked and fish will become practically unsaleable.

OUR POLICY MEANS LOSS OF MARKETS.

If this policy of holding back is going to continue, I fear we will meet a crisis which none of us anticipate. I understand in Spain there are considerable quantities of old fish, which are being sold at disastrous prices to the shippers; and also considerable old fish held in Italy, and what, with the unrest there and the financial condition and rate of exchange, I fear that our sales there will be much lower than we anticipate, and after losing two or three months' consumption, we will not be able to make up for it. In fact, I fear that our sales this year will be very small, and in the spring we shall find that we have a considerable quantity of old fish on our hands. The Regulations prohibit the shipment of any new fish to Brazil until the 15th of October, and the result of this I find is that the Halifax buyers are purchasing all the small fish possible for this market on the

Gaspé Coast, and are making sales ahead for November and December on the old contract with Brazil buyers, which means we will again lose the sale of our small fish to Brazil, and block the markets again on the other side with small fish. While we are playing with the fish business, and are bound by Rules and Regulations the Nova Scotians are getting in their work and stealing the market we have had for years.

STANDARDIZING.

The standardizing of codfish I agreed with in the House of Assembly, but with the clear understanding that the fishermen would not be penalized, and that drastic measures would not be used for the first year, but I understand from some fishermen that they are being treated very harshly, and that it is hard to find a No. 1 fish for the inspectors. From my own knowledge, I am satisfied there has not been appointed one inspector who really knows the requirements of any one market. I will quote a case which will prove conclusively how little we know about it.

A CONCRETE ILLUSTRATION.

When in Liverpool two weeks ago I visited a very large fish premises, and while there the owner showed me considerable lots of fish, and in bulk were lying about 100 quintals of new fish from Newfoundland of what is known as our Soft Labrador Shore Cure, which was clean, white and bright, with black washed off the napes. I was very pleased with it, and the boss man of the stores said: "Yes, it is clean, nice, bright, etc., but people will not buy it," and, naturally, I asked "Why?" "Because," he said, "it has not the black napes and it loses its originality as Labrador fish, and buyers think it is Iceland fish." So I readily realized it is impossible to tell what is required.

DETENTION DETERIORATES.

A few years ago the Board of Trade issued quality certificates. At first the buyers demanded same when buying cargoes, but after a while it dropped off, and the reason for same was the fish turned out about the same as shipped previously without certificates. Now what value will the Government certificate have? The Inspector may load cargo in No. 1 order, and after issuing certificates the cargo may be detained for a month; together with another two weeks' voyage, making six weeks, it arrives in Oporto and examined, with the Government certificate—Cargo all dun. Who is to blame, and what value will the Government certificate of quality be? After this, needless to say, it will be valueless. These things I point out to show how difficult it is to adjust matters under the Regulations.

COMPETITION.

I would like to point out that England to-day is drying codfish similar to ours, and imitating our Labrador codfish for Greece markets, and Lord Leverhulme, who controls about ninety trawlers, is endeavoring in every way possible to develop the fisheries of England, not only for home consumption, but to export to the Mediterranean markets in competition with other countries.

ITALY.

Financial conditions of countries like Portugal and Italy are very serious, and the low rate of exchange will have a very serious effect on the prices of our fish, and also the consumption.

The Italian Consorzio is appointed for another year and are prepared to buy our fish, but while we are delaying the shipments of new fish to this market, we are losing consumption, and the result will be similar to last season and much worse.

TIGHTNESS OF MONEY.

The financial conditions in England are also very serious, and money cannot be found for ordinary trade demands, and bankers fight shy of loaning any money at all. I have heard considerable talk about the tightness of the bankers here in the way of loaning money. I may say it only requires a trip to foreign countries to find that Newfoundlanders are treated far better than elsewhere.

TRADE INTERFERENCE MEANS CRISIS.

I believe in trying to improve our cure and to give buyers as near as possible what they buy; but I say this is a free country, and every man should be allowed to buy and sell his own products, and Supply and Demand will govern the prices. My own opinion is that, if something is not done promptly to let trade go through its proper channels, and regulations for shipping are done away with, then a crisis will overtake us quicker than we ever anticipated, not only with the shippers of fish, but with the Colony, and in proof of that it is only necessary to look at the drop in the revenue the past two months, which I understand is approximately \$100,000.00, not including outports, each month. Need I say more?

FISHERY REPORT.—Between Safe Hr. and Cape Freels the catch of codfish is reported as 3000 qtls. with 700 for the past week. Sixty-eight boats are fishing. The bait supply is poor and there is very little improvement in the fishery prospects.

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Sydney Baseball Team

RETURNS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND TOUR.

The victorious Sydney baseball team arrived home on the S. S. Kyle, which docked at North Sydney at 8:45 o'clock this morning. The trip across from Port aux Basques was made in about nine hours and although there was a little swell on none of the players suffered sea sickness. The team left Grand Falls on Wednesday morning and arrived at Port aux Basques at about 11:30 o'clock the same evening.

Everybody in the party without an exception was unanimous in voting the tour a most successful one, and all had a good time. Manager Nathanson organized and conducted the business end of the trip for the Sydney team in a first class manner and it was due to his efforts that the trip was so successful.

The managers of the St. John's team, J. B. Orr, an American, who resides in St. John's; T. V. Hartnett, formerly of New York; F. V. Chessman, a native of New Brunswick; H. J. Power, a St. John's man and W. J. Higgins, K.C., M.H.A., also of St. John's, carried out their end of the proposition in a manner that left nothing to be desired.

These men made all of the arrangements for the tour after the arrival of the local team in Newfoundland and everything went off without a hitch. A feature of the Sydney team was the good organization brought about by Field Manager Lewis Fulton. Manager Fulton used good judgment in all of the games as the record of five wins and only one game lost testifies.

The Sydney players themselves played great ball and showed the people of St. John's and Grand Falls how the game of baseball should be played. However, the playing of the St. John's team was a credit to them as baseball was only introduced there six years ago.

The Grand Falls team is made up of Americans who work at the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company's pulp and paper mill and the local boys were easily the better ball players. Before leaving St. John's the Sydney team was given a hearty invitation by Mr. Hartnett to return again next year.

Among those who accompanied the team and who was very popular with the boys was Alderman Amos Martin, of Ward Five.

Alderman Martin, except for a short visit to Harbor Grace, was with the team during the entire trip.

He returned to the city this morning.

The following are the players and party who returned by the Kyle this morning: Alex. MacDonald, Cap. Bartlett, Norman MacLean, Bert MacLean, Kyran Purcell, Kenzie White, Joe MacInnis, Joe Nearing, Ray MacNabb, John MacInnis, Os. Hyndman, Billie Kenna, Harold Buchanan, Angus Lannon, Con Moore and Gregg MacNeil, Lewis Fulton, Ralph Pushele, E. Feder, returned to the city on Tuesday. Leo MacKenna stayed over at Port aux Basques where he is visiting friends.

League Football.

In last night's League football game the B.I.S. defeated the Saints by a score of 3 to 1. The scoring was done during the first half, the Saints scoring a goal shortly after the opening of the game. In less than 5 minutes afterwards, the B.I.S. found the net twice and secured the third goal just before half time. Mr. Churchill was referee.

The Handsome Queen, Bussey master, with 300 qtls. Labrador cure fish has returned to St. Leonard's from the Straits.

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Shipping Notes.

Schooner Guide has left Bonne Bay for Sydney to load coal.

Schooner Review is loading at Norris Point for A. E. Hickman Co. Ltd.

Schooner Newton S. Lake is loading for Oporto at Rose Blanche from Jno. E. Lake.

Schooner Governor Foss has arrived from Sydney with a cargo of coal to A. H. Frowse.

Schooner Blake has entered at Twillingate to load herring for New York from W. Ashbourne.

Schooner Alsace has arrived at Squid Ticks from the Straits with 850 qtls. of codfish, Labrador cure.

Schooner Myrtle Piercey has arrived at Grand Bank with a cargo of salt from Lisbon.

Schooner Edith Cavell, with 4139 qtls. of codfish and 104 qtls. haddock from J. Penney & Son has cleared for Oporto from Ramen.

S.S. Fram has gone to Western Arm, White Bay to load pulpwood for the A.N.D. Co.

The Ena A. Moulton has entered at Burgeo to load from R. Moulton Ltd. for Oporto.

Shipping Notes.

Schooner Marie has arrived at Hr. Grace with a cargo of coal from Louisbourg.

S.S. Sagona is taking a part cargo of salt along to Labrador for crews who had practically used up their supply when the steamer was coming south.

Schooner Josie & Phoebe has cleared from Pushthrough with 1200 qtls.

of large and medium codfish, 1520 qtls., small codfish, 250 qtls., Haddock and 44 qtls. ling from W. Webb and Son for Oporto.

The Nina Lee has cleared for Seville with 2700 qtls. of codfish from F. D. Garcius.

FISHERMEN EMIGRATING.—A number of young men from Conception Bay who had been trap fishing at home and did poorly are leaving by the S.S. Sable I. for North Sydney, to seek work in the coal mines.

You can get a nice Tweed Suit, made smart and stylish, for \$60; and you can get some of the best Serges in the country at SPUR-RELL the Tailor, Water Street. aug7,ed,tt

Meet your friends at Flatrock Garden Party Wednesday, Sept. 1st. You will be delighted with the races between Torbay, Pouch Cove and Flatrock. City Band. aug30,21

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