

ful attempt has just been made to import *live* lobsters from Canada, where they are abundant and cheap, to England, where they are so dear as to render them a positive luxury.

"Many attempts have been made at different times to land live Canadian lobsters in England; but none of them had proved successful, owing to various causes too numerous to explain here. The idea was, however, too good, too tempting, to be definitely abandoned, and experiments were constantly being made, though with but little success. Finally Messrs. Arthur and Harold McGray instituted careful inquiries in the principal lobster districts, the result of which led them to the conclusion that the methods adopted by previous shippers had been defective, owing to their ignorance of the habits and requirements of the lobster. These shippers had simply placed the fish in large tubs, renewing the salt water at frequent intervals. This was clearly insufficient, for the lobsters invariably died within twelve or fifteen hours.

"Having concluded their inquiries and carefully tabulated the information they had obtained, Messrs. McGray commenced to experiment with a system entirely different, devised by themselves. This improved apparatus, which appears simple in itself, is the outcome of patient observation and study of the habits of the lobster at various points along the coast. It enables the crustaceans to continue, whilst in transport, an almost identical mode of life to that led by them at the bottom of the sea. This system constituted the inventor's secret, which we cannot of course divulge at the present moment.

"They commenced with ten lobsters, which they placed in their improved receptacle, and contrived to keep them alive for forty-eight hours. This was a decided improvement on the results previously obtained by other merchants. Thus encouraged, they continued their experiments with successive series of lobsters. In the course of the summer of 1891 they succeeded in keeping them alive five, eight, eleven, thirteen, and ultimately eighteen days. These experiments, diversified by innumerable incidents, trials, failures, and partial successes, were conducted on board a light-ship stationed off Barrington, with water always taken from the bay, and naturally of about the same temperature. An important point was thus established—lobsters could be kept alive for eighteen days on board a stationary ship.

"The question then arose, Would similar lobsters live the same length of time on board a ship crossing the Atlantic, and in water constantly changing in temperature? Messrs. McGray were quite convinced that they would.

"They, therefore, arranged to ship fifty lobsters, by the S.S. *Historian* (Captain Wilson), running from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to London direct. The passage was expected to occupy fourteen days. This was more than sufficient to thoroughly test the system, seeing that steamers are available which make the passage in ten days.

"The ship left Halifax at 8 a. m. on Thursday, 10th December, Mr. Harold McGray being on board to personally conduct the experiments. The lobsters were shipped under rather unfavourable circumstances, they having then been out of water for twenty-four hours.

"The losses during the voyage were as follows:—

1st day . . . . .	2	lobsters died.
5th " . . . . .	4	" "
6th " . . . . .	1	" "
7th " . . . . .	3	" "
8th " . . . . .	1	" "
9th " . . . . .	1	" "
12th " . . . . .	2	" "

"The fifth day a receptacle containing fifteen lobsters was swept overboard during a south-west hurricane.

"The first two deaths were due to the unsatisfactory condition of the fish when shipped; the next four were killed by the rapid change in temperature during the passage across the Gulf stream; two died from injuries inflicted by larger and stronger ones, whilst the remainder died from some unknown cause.