

Interesting Facts

About Sea Fishes

MACKEREL

Probably none of our sea fishes is more interesting than the mackerel. For the last two months, May and June, schools of these fish have been followed by fleets of American purse-seiners and Canadian netters, in their migration up the Atlantic shore of the continent to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. And just as eager as the fishermen have been to net this delicious pelagian, the public has been in its effort to procure it for its table.

The common mackerel is one of the best known food fishes. It is distinguished from other denizens of the deep by its swift form, metallic coloration, and, technically, by the presence of a number of detached finlets between the back fins and the tail. The cut of the finlets is peculiar, the muscular system is extremely strong, and the flesh is oily. As in most swift-moving fishes and fishes of pelagic habits the bones of the spinal column are numerous and extremely small, an arrangement which makes for flexibility of the body.

The common mackerel (sembrus) is probably confined to the Atlantic, where on both European and American shores it runs in vast schools, the movement varying greatly from year to year, the preference being for cool water. Mackerel migrate northward to spawn. The female produces approximately half a million eggs each year, according to Professor Goode. These are very minute and each is provided with an oil globule which causes it to float on the surface. All of these eggs, of course do not mature. Both the eggs and young are destroyed in great quantity by their natural enemies; hence the reason for producing the eggs on such a large scale. The balance of nature suffices for all ordinary exterminating influences.

During April or early May the mackerel strike our Atlantic coast off Carolina or Virginia where they are intercepted by a fleet of seiners from Massachusetts. These seiners, which are a fine class of craft-yachts of great speed and very sea-worthy follow the schools up the coast. The first mackerel caught in southern waters are usually marketed fresh and command a high price, but as the seiners proceed north their catch is mostly salted in barrels.

While our American seiners have an extensive off-shore fishing fleet in pursuit of the mackerel, there is only one Canadian seiner operating this year; our fishermen use dragnets or nets fixed in the bottom.

The Canadian mackerel catch is thus rendered very uncertain because the schools may move thirty or forty miles off shore which is farther to sea than our small Canadian craft would care to venture. Mackerel have been known to take three different routes after striking off the southwest shore of Nova Scotia. These routes, commonly known as the shore, inner and outer, all converge at Canoe. Some schools, it is stated, go through the strait of Canoe to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but the great body reaches the gulf by way of Cape Breton. After lingering for a period in the Gulf the fish disappear into deep water, returning again in the fall on their migratory course to warmer waters for the winter.

The Fisheries Branch, Department of Marine and Fisheries in 1920 instituted a scouting service to locate the mackerel schools as they approach the Nova Scotia coast, and notify the fishermen ashore. The fisheries protection cruisers "Aras" and "Hochelega" which set out early in May, met the mackerel and accompanied them along the coast. This year a similar service was maintained, but unfortunately both in 1920 and 1921 the schools did not follow the shore course, and hence our fishermen, who are dependent largely upon a movement inshore, did not have the success of other years.

The schools of mackerel vary greatly in size. Schools estimated to contain one million barrels have been recorded on more than one occasion. A school such as this has been described as "a windrow of fish half a mile wide and twenty miles long". The bulk of mackerel taken is salted, but fresh or salt they are consumed in great abundance by Canadians and Americans whenever available. It is estimated that the Massachusetts seiners put up about 400,000 barrels each year. Our Canadian fishery in 1919 brought 230,770 cwts, valued at approximately \$1,600,000, of which 74,897 barrels were put up, valued at \$1,038,000. In 1920 only 142,347 cwts. were caught, and 26,144 barrels packed.

Professor Goode says that the mackerel when in season is one of the most delicious sea foods, ranking high in nutrition and palatability. Salt mackerel may be boiled as well as broiled and fresh mackerel may be treated in the same manner. A well-cured autumn mackerel he considers to be the finest of all salted fish. Generally speaking, mackerel is available on the Canadian market in the latter part of May, June, July, August, September and October.

SIX ARMED BANDITS LOOT ONTARIO BANK

One Man Shot and Wounded in Bold Raid on Merchants' Bank at Petite Cote.

Windsor, Ont., July 26—Six armed bandits held up employees of the branch of the Merchants' Bank at Petite Cote, about twelve miles from Windsor, at noon today and secured between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in cash. Vital Benoit, a customer in the bank, received a flesh wound in the body. Several shots were fired. The bandits forced the teller, accountant and another employee to lie on their faces while they rifled the tills. The robbers were given chase by two automobiles and when last seen were heading towards Essex.

Border police were notified and several parties are scouring the country for the bandits.

Five residents of Petite Cote in a car came so close to the escaping robbers that shots were exchanged between the two parties. Bullets fired by the bandits grazed the pursuing car but no one was injured.

They had to abandon the chase because of a blow-out. Police of four of the border cities are now engaged in the chase and are in hot pursuit. Bank officials are with-holding information as to the exact amount of money taken. Semi-official police reports say that it was at least \$12,000.

The bandits' car is said to be a Cadillac, Ontario license No. 168-731.

MISS SMITH IS A "B. A."

The St. John Globe says: The degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred by Somerville College, Oxford, on Miss Ella L. Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Willard Smith, on June 23rd. Miss Smith also holds "B.A." and "M.A." degrees from McGill. She qualified for a degree in 1914, graduating with first class honors, being the first lady in three years to win such honors.

Hants Journal: Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wiltshire and daughter recently visited Mrs. D. K. Grant, Yarmouth.

HAS THROWN HIS CRUTCHES AWAY

Halifax Man Was Unable to Walk for Rheumatism When He Began Taking Tanlac

"I had quit work, was unable to walk and thought the rheumatism had laid me out for good, but since taking Tanlac I have thrown my crutches away and simply feel like a new man entirely," said John Olsen, 44 Dresden Row, Halifax, N.S., who has been a suffering man for the past forty years.

"For three years I was troubled with rheumatism. My legs ached from my knees to my feet and for weeks at a time I was unable to walk a step. My knees were swollen and stiff and at times my legs were as stiff as a board. My ankles and feet would swell up so bad I couldn't get my shoes on and the muscles in my legs felt like they were tied in knots. I had sharp, shooting pains all through my legs and a good night's rest was almost impossible. Whenever I was on the ship they had to lift me out of my bunk and carry me around like a child. Last September when we arrived in Sydney I had them carry me ashore and put me on the train for Halifax, and when I reached there I couldn't walk a step.

"Well, while sitting around the house all the time I took to reading a good deal and each day I noticed the statements about Tanlac. So finally I decided to try it myself. The swelling and stiffness began to leave me and I was able to walk with the aid of crutches. I kept right on taking Tanlac until now, I have thrown my crutches away, can walk as good as I ever could in my life and the pains and aches have all disappeared. My appetite has improved and I have picked up several pounds in weight, and am feeling better and stronger than I have in many years."

WEDDING BELLS

MASON-CORKUM

The home of Mr. Wilbert Corkum, Robinson's Corner, N. S., was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Tuesday, July 12th, at eight p. m., when his niece, Miss Evelyn Sadie, became the bride of Mr. Winifred Mason, of French Village, Halifax Co. The officiating clergyman was Rev. W. J. Hamilton, a former pastor of the bride, while she was residing at Lake May, Annapolis Co. the home of her father, Mr. Amos Corkum.

The bride was becomingly attired in a gown of ivory duchess satin with trimmings of pearl and silver lace. Her veil of fine net fell to the edge of her gown and was held in place by a wreath of orange blossoms. Her bouquet was a shower of bridal roses and white sweet peas. The wedding march from Lohengrin was rendered by Mrs. Hamilton, as the bride, on the arm of her uncle, took her position on the lawn, under an arch of evergreen and roses, where the clergyman and the groom awaited her. She was attended by a pupil, Miss Helen Smith, of Tantallon, who looked very attractive attired in azure taffeta. The declining rays of the sun mingling with the soft rays of candle light shed a dreamy radiance over the scene.

After the ceremony, a dainty luncheon was served to about forty guests, including relatives and friends from Halifax and French Village, who motored in to extend to Mr. and Mrs. Mason best wishes for years of happiness and prosperity.

At the outbreak of the great war the groom was in Manitoba. He enlisted in the 183rd battalion at Winnipeg, and was transferred to the 27th battalion overseas. He was seriously wounded at Passchendaele, in August, 1917, but at the close of the war he was again on active service in France.

The groom's gift to the bride was a substantial cheque, to the organist and maid of honor, gold pieces. Among other numerous gifts of silver, linen and china, was a silver tea service, the gift of the aunts and the uncle, with whom the bride has made her home since the death of her mother. The following morning Mr. and Mrs. Mason motored to Halifax en route to St. John, near where they will spend several months before going to their permanent home at Amherst.

DEATH OF A PROMINENT METHODIST

(Wesleyan)

Mr. Havelock Nelly, for many years an active member of the Methodist Church at Middleton, Annapolis Co., N.S., passed away on Sunday, July 10th, after a few days illness of pneumonia, aged 62 years. He will be much missed in the church and community.

Ex-Conductor N. Margeson was in Windsor this week attending the funeral of Capt. Wm. Crossley. Norris was looking fine.

ANOTHER VESSEL HAS DISAPPEARED

Strange Stories Concerning A Vessel Which Has Never Been Heard From

Four years ago the three masted schooner E. E. Morrison sailed from St. John for Kingston, Ja., with a cargo of flour. It was the maiden trip of the trim vessel which was just left the stocks at Liverpool.

Since that day not a word has been received from any member of the crew. Two St. John men had gone on the new vessel, Carl Kemp, Jr. and Joseph Fitzgerald. Both were married. Kemp a young man with one child.

The schooner arrived at Kingston and having discharged the cargo was despatched to Martinique, to load for some other port, not then known. Submarines were operating in that section of the West Indies and it is presumed by some that the E. E. Morrison, on her maiden trip was one of their victims.

There was a report that a submarine was sighted by the captain of the schooner Herbert Saunders, an old Nova Scotian mariner, just off Martinique. According to this report it came up alongside and the commander ordered all men on the schooner to come aboard. They did so and were left on deck. Two torpedoes were then fired and the brand new vessel sank.

It was said the submarine submerged leaving the crew of the E. E. Morrison to the mercy of the water as the sub swept away under the surface. The order to sink without trace was then operative and the report is credited in many places.

As it would be impossible to swim about twenty miles to shore and moreover if one did float for some time on a piece of wreckage, shark would be likely to seize the survivor. As far as known to the relatives of the St. John men who went with the vessel, not a piece of wreckage identified as belonging to the E. E. Morrison, has been found. There has been a spark of hope burnished in the breasts of some that the men succeeded in reaching shore and are now on one of the small islands of the West Indies, unable to reach civilization.

There are others who believe the schooner was dashed on a hidden reef or was driven on the rocks of one of the islands, during a terrible storm. However, the impression that the submarines alerted her as prey is the prevalent one. Recently a stage clairvoyant, coachman, mental telepathist and medium, when asked what became of the E. E. Morrison replied that it foundered in a storm. But as she did not present any further information on the subject it is surmised she was guessing.

GREAT OIL FIELD FIRE IN MEXICO

Mexico City, July 26—The Amatlan oilfields are on fire, with drilling towers falling like chaff and the workmen fleeing, according to reports received here describing "the greatest catastrophe in the history of the oil field."

The financial loss cannot be estimated, say the advices, which add that the conflagration dwarfs into insignificance the Pordoro Del Llano disaster.

Columns of fire hundreds of feet high are covering the entire field and efforts to suppress the blaze are considered hopeless.

It is also feared that there will be some loss of life, as the fire spread so quickly from lot No. 162, where it started, other wells in the vicinity exploding.

The Amatlan field is one of the richest in the state of Vera Cruz. The fire has destroyed property to the value of several million dollars, and so far as is known is not yet under control.

The fire was caused by lightning. Troops have been rushed to Amatlan, and workmen from other districts are aiding in fighting the flames.

Something For Nothing

The railway conductor was collecting tickets. He came to a large and bearded Scot, who, with bowed head, was searching pocket after pocket for his piece of cardboard—in vain. After the search had progressed quite a while, the Scot raised his head, and the eye of the conductor happened to fall upon his bearded lips. "Why, the ticket's in your mouth," he said. Sure enough, that is where it was.

The Scot handed it to the conductor, who punched it and pocketed it and proceeded on his way. "Queer that your ticket should have been in your mouth all the time," remarked a fellow-traveller to the Scot. "Nothing queer about it," was his reply, "I was just sockin' the date off."

W. Conrad, ex-D.A.R., conductor, has a fine position now in St. John.

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