

COODISHING

HOW AN IMPORTANT FISH IS CAUGHT

Characteristics of the Cod Trawl Fishing from Dories-Lines 3000 Feet Long-Cur-

The cod along our shores differs a little from that on the Banks, being of another species. It is not a migratory fish, like the mackerel, but lives in great colonies, having but a limited range. Although they are not migratory, it is said that they do not intermingle with those of a neighboring colony. The fish of each character-istics which distinguish it from those of another.

In general, it may be said, that the cod is of a greenish brown, when fresh from the water, and is spotted with red. The under part is a silvery opaque white, and the fins are of a pale green. It can be distinguished from the haddock, with which it often feeds, by its white lateral line. The line on the haddock's side is always black. In the upper jaw there are four rows of sharp teeth, in the lower, one row. The scales are small and the eyes large. There are ten fins, three of which are upon the back.

I have seen a codfish that weighed nearly one hundred pounds, and have heard of one caught near that weight. One hundred and fifteen pounds after its entrails had been taken out. But one of eighty pounds is considered a large one even by fishermen, and one of twenty, though caught upon the Banks seldom reach eighty pounds, being of a smaller species.

The cod is a deep-sea fish, as indicated by a little appendage, two inches long, hanging from its lower jaw. This is called a barbule. It finds its food at the bottom, upon sand-banks at an average depth usually at some distance from the shore, although, in cold weather, it may sometimes be taken by fishing from the rocks.

As the season advances the cod resorts to deeper water. Its food consists of worms, sand-eels, crabs and other small shellfish, but is not over-particular as to what it swallows. A great variety of articles has been taken from the stomachs of cod—straw, stones, rubber balls, jackknives, snuff-boxes, nutmegs, old iron, glass and broken crockery. The Indians caught with lines made of bark and hooks of bone.

Formerly all cod were caught by means of handlines, and some fish are still taken in this way, especially in the autumn when they are abundant. The most, however, are now taken by trawls, which were introduced here about 1850, and were first used by the French.

A trawl consists of a line about three thousand feet in length, to which are attached short ones about thirty-six inches long, on each of which is a hook. The short lines are placed about six feet apart, so that there are about six hundred hooks. Attached to each end of the line by a rope is a buoy, sometimes only an empty powder keg or mackerel fat. In the lead, which is a heavy iron weight, three feet long upon which is a small flag to attract the attention of the owner when in search of it. To each end of the line also is fastened a small anchor. The hooks are made of iron, and are either hering, or other small fish, if they can be secured. Each fish will bait four clams. It should be noted that the bait is not used, but is only used to attract the fish. The bait is not used, but is only used to attract the fish.

When it is ready it is placed in a tub made of a half-barrel. The long line is coiled up in the centre, and the bait lines are coiled up in the tub. One trawl uses from two to six trawls, which are often set in the afternoon and visited very early the following morning, and perhaps once or twice more in the course of the day.

The process is somewhat as follows: When one buoy is reached, the end of the trawl to which it is attached is drawn up, and the trawl is examined. The fish, which have been caught, are taken off. By means of trawls a man may catch more fish in a single night than by a week's hard work with hand lines.

Of course they are not all cod. This is a hake, that a haddock, the next a dogfish, and the next a halibut. The netting is quite likely to be mixed, and the surface upon one of the many hooks. It may be some hideous fish, or some uncatchable object which has long been lying in its rocky bed.

I have described trawl-fishing as conducted by one or two men in a dory at from one to five miles from the shore. Schooners of from ten to twenty tons make trips off shore to a distance of from twenty to a hundred miles. They take a supply of ice as well as bait, and run into Boston or some other port once or twice a week and sell their fish to dealers, who supply the trade all over New England.

Larger schooners visit Georges Banks, the Western or those of Newfoundland, and may be gone for a week or more, bringing their fish to market on ice, or they may be gone from four to six months dressing and salting their fish on board.

The process of curing fish has not changed for two hundred years. In dressing them several men are engaged. The cutter cuts the throat and ribs upon the fish; the header breaks off the head out of the entrails, and the liver; the splitter splits the fish completely open from throat to tail and takes out the back-bone; the salter salts them, and places them in a cask resting on the vessel. The amount of salt used in Gloucester in a single year amounts to more than a hundred thousand hogs-heads.

When a schooner arrives at port with a "fare of fish" they are taken out with pitchforks, washed, and when the weather is suitable, spread upon flakes to dry. The flakes are frames covered with triangular slats, and are about seven feet wide and raised three feet above the ground. At Provincetown they may be seen not only upon the wharves, but also in all vacant places between the houses and even in the front doorways, so that the smell of codfish regales the passer-by instead of the fragrance of flowers.

Great care is required to dry fish properly. Clear weather and westerly winds are most to be desired. Foggy weather spoils them, and a hot sun melts, or, as the fishermen say, "ashes" them. To prevent this, screens made of cotton cloth are often placed eighteen inches above them as a protection from the sun's direct rays.

"Going on your own hook" had its origin in the custom of keeping an account of each man's catch, and the distribution of the profits of the voyage accordingly.

To make sure of the count the tongues are cut out and at night taken to the skipper for record. Sometimes three or four men go as "sharemen," and hire the other members of the crew; and sometimes the firm which fits out the vessel takes one-fourth of the proceeds, and divides the rest among the crew after taking out certain expenses.—*Yonk's Companion.*

New York city consumes over 1,000,000 quarts of milk every month. It requires the best of over 60,000 cows averaging fourteen quarts in two milkings, to furnish this amount of milk. Statistics show that during 1888, retail dealers in that city purchased \$28,748,637 worth of milk.

The veterans of the late war are dying at the rate of 6000 a year.

AGRICULTURE

THE CEREMONY OF INCINATION.

As the public mind becomes more familiar with the idea of incineration, the practice gains in popularity, and the New York Cremation Society is now cremating from ten to twelve bodies every month.

The crematory at Fresh Pond, Long Island, is in its present state far from an imposing-looking structure, but had the original plans been perfected it would present a different appearance. Imagine a row of white-washed bricks, with two lofty smokestacks, and you have a good idea of the building. Neither more nor less, without in the slightest attempt at decoration. All seems cold, austere and forbidding.

The body of Henry Walley was incinerated on a recent afternoon. The mourners were seated in a row upon wooden chairs ranged in front of the furnace. The coffin was carried into the rear room, opened, and the body developed. The body was placed in a cradle of iron, which was in turn laid upon a catafalque of the same metal. This was wheeled into a chamber, and the catafalque was placed in the furnace and the doors reclosed. Two small round apertures glowed through the iron, and the eyes of the dead were visible. While combustion is taking place and the gases are escaping through the perforations in the top, the body becomes dark and charred, and it again assumes their pristine brilliancy. It takes four hours to accomplish this at a heat of 2000 degrees.

When the process is left until morning. When the door is again opened the body lying in the sheet appears to be intact, but contact with the air causes it to crumble into dust. Strangers are shown all that remains of Mr. Cohen, one of the editors of the *Standard*, who left his ashes to the cremation society.

"The putting away of the mortal remains of a relative is necessarily a harrowing spectacle," said the attendant, "but after all, the sight of a body undergoing the process of incineration is not what it swallows. A great variety of articles has been taken from the stomachs of cod—straw, stones, rubber balls, jackknives, snuff-boxes, nutmegs, old iron, glass and broken crockery. The Indians caught with lines made of bark and hooks of bone.

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TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

Onions for Poultry. People who give their poultry mixed with their other food, will find an excellent preventive to various diseases, especially where fowls are not allowed to run at large and gather food for themselves. When kept in the close confinement of small runs, much more attention is necessary in supplying them with a variety than where they have a larger liberty, and for keeping them in good health onions are among the best things that can be given them.—*New York World.*

A Demand for Big Horses. Don't be afraid of breeding too large horses, says the *New York Herald*. The people of the present day want them, and the heavy freighters in the cities cannot do without them. The size of the horse of the future will fix its value. The boom is up for big ones, so don't neglect to breed them, and afterward to feed them. A big pair of half-bred Normans quickly will bring \$500 a piece, and a pair of pure bred ones will bring \$1000 a piece. The best horse for the farm to rise in the draught horse. The 1100 to 1700 pound draught horse requires a special experience or training to sell, and the farmer has no need of a professional trainer. A ready market is constantly open for the draught horse. The demand far exceeds the supply. The farmer can turn them into cash at their real value, and more than any other class of horses. While cattle, sheep and hogs have been so depressed the past year or two, the draught horse breeders have not an active demand at big prices. In fact, the masters of the situation and about the only class of breeders that can set up their own price, and get it too.

Value of Ashes. "How much unleached hard-wood ashes worth per bushel to use on land which is worth \$150 per acre, and when a bushel is selling at \$12 per ton?" asks a reader in the *Central Vermont of the New York Farmer*, and the following reply is made: "Ashes vary greatly in their actual value and in their selling price according to the kind of wood burned and their freedom from sand. The best test is made by burning a bushel of wood ashes in a barrel, and the residue is what is left. The best quality of wood ashes will contain nearly ten per cent. of potash while those from some of the softer woods may show less than five per cent. The potash is a less valuable element, but some that are wood ashes are not so inferior as many believe, but being lighter than those from hard-wood ashes they are easily lost by being blown away from the trees. The ashes from small twigs are much richer than those from the trunk of the trees. 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