

British Fisheries Are Menaced By Seals And Sharks

The Government Starts Fight Against Monsters of the Sea.

London. — If you talk with Cornish fishermen along the northern coast—at Padstow, at St. Ives, at Port Isaac, at Sennen, and elsewhere—you will hear strange tales about the new wild "fishermen" who are competing with them—the colonies of grey seals.

And if you talk with them on the south coast—at Mevagissey, at Looe, at Newlyn—you will be told of that fisherman from the air, the cormorant.

There are those, like Howard Dunn, chairman of the Cornish Sea Fisheries committee, who believe there are more grey seals along the northern coast than there are "civilized" fishermen there.

And a scientist like G. A. Steven, assistant naturalist at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth, will grant that it is time a census of the seals were taken.

Mr. Steven has found colonies of them inhabiting caves at Boscastle, and has seen nine heads in the water together. That, however, is as nothing. Not far from Port Isaac 89 were observed taking a siesta on a shelf of sand at one moment.

Hard to Fool

But even their numbers are dwarfed, it seems, by their intelligence.

At Port Isaac, when the engines of the motor fishing-boats emit their first coughs and splutters, the seals gather, as on a signal, and follow the fleet; nor can they be shaken off; they swim seven knots; they are as a pack of wolves.

At St. Ives seals have been seen to bring ling to the surface, cut the fish open with their teeth and then cast the backbone away. The seal likes his ling filleted. Seals have been observed "working" a shoal of mackerel in the manner of sheepdogs.

At Padstow, the salmon nets in the River Came, can no longer be safely left, lest the seal should capture the emeshed salmon before the watcher.

One seal was caught, killed and opened. It had consumed 84 herrings—70 of them unmarked, not a scale damaged. Those 70 were packed in barrels.

The ministry of agriculture has agreed to the Cornish Fisheries committee spending £30 on destroying seals, and this summer, W. H. Barron, the fishery officer, will begin operations with a rifle, a motor-boat, and a man.

Pity Poor Fisherman

Sharks, too, are proving a nuisance to Britain's fishing industry. From mine-sweeping in war days, Britain's commercial navy is engaged now in shark-hunting.

Forty-foot sharks are common off the coasts, according to Lieut.-Commander J. S. Dalison of H.M.S. Doon.

"They live on plankton, a kind of minute sea life, which is also the food of herring," he says. They and the herring go about together seeking this tasty morsel.

"The sharks frequently get caught in the herring drifter's nets. With a few flips of their immensely powerful bodies they rend them to shreds.

Powerful Monsters

"A shark once towed a drifter four miles, although her engines were going full speed astern. Only then was the shark exhausted. So, to save the fishermen's nets, we shoot or blow up the sharks whenever we sight them.

"They have a great dorsal fin which projects three or four feet out of the water, and often their tails are visible also.

Plaids And Prints Worn In South

LONG, GRACEFUL LINES AND SOFT, BRIGHT COLORS DISTINGUISH NEW GOWNS FOR MILADY'S MORE FORMAL HOURS



LEFT—BLACK AND GOLD PLAID CHIFFON, RED HORSEHAIR AND WOOL HAT; RIGHT—STRAWBERRY PRINT FROCK.

By LISBETH

Plaids brighten up the daytime mode for business and college. And how they gladden the heart when worn for more formal functions.

Posed at the left is a frock which is guaranteed to please the males of the species, as well as the females.

It is in black and gold plaid chiffon, with graceful long skirt, elbow sleeves finished with ruffles, and a flower jabot. The large picture hat is of red horsehair and wool. It is supposed to suggest the streamlines of the latest motor-cars in its lines. The sandals worn with it are of black velvet with gold and silver trimmings.

The halter-neck frock at the right is, of course, for formal evening wear. It is one of Ducharme's famous strawberry prints. This streamlined age is suggested in the sandals worn with it, but, it is to be regretted, invisible to you readers. At any rate, they have "blimp" noses. It is one of those costumes which is the answer to what to wear when your hostess says, "Wear what you please."

"When two sharks follow one another four fins are visible and they look like some fabulous sea monster.

"They are amazingly strong, these brutes. I have registered a direct hit on one with a twelve-pounder high explosive shell and blown a huge hole in his back. He swam on!"

EXPOSITION MEDAL A PUZZLE

Bayfield, Wis.—J. M. Gordon is wondering how a large silver souvenir medal of the Columbian Exposition, came to be under a huge rock he had removed from his yard. The rock was five feet in diameter. Under it they found the medal, which had been struck off 40 years previously.

AROUND THE MARITIMES

(Continued from Page 1)

ing transferred from Central Canada to these provinces, it is reported.

Annapolis Valley growers have shipped so far this season 1,138,743 barrels, of which all but 64,474 barrels were of the 35 varieties generally considered as standard.

The Royal Securities Corporation have purchased the bonds recently issued by the city of Moncton. The value was \$125,000, payable in 20 years, and yielding five per cent.

New Brunswick members of the Maritime Transportation Commission appointed at Saint John last week were J. D. Palmer, Frederickton, A. P. Paterson, J. D. McKenna, John E. Sayre, and M. A. Hessler. No other statement was issued following the announcement.

Coal output of the Dominion Coal Company's mines during January showed an increase of 60,000 tons over January, 1933, it is reported, and 25,000 tons over the previous month.

The formal opening of the third session of Prince Edward Island's 42nd General Assembly will take place on March 6. A new lieutenant-governor and a new premier will make their appearance.

Sweeping powers to control the fruit industry of Canada would be conferred on the federal Minister of Agriculture under the proposed Fruit Act to go before the Nova Scotia Parliament this session. Such a move was fully concurred in by the Nova Scotia

Fruit Growers Association executive at a meeting held at Kentville recently.

The New Brunswick Government has announced a reduction in motor vehicle license rates. Automobiles will be licensed for 70 cents per hundredweight, instead of 85 cents. Trucks under 3,000 pounds pay \$1 per hundredweight.

A promising outlook for fine New Brunswick hardwood in Great Britain is reported by B. Gilday of West Chazy, N.Y., who has been interested in the Canadian lumber trade for some years. The pick-up in general business in Great Britain is bringing about an improved demand for hardwood lumber of the best grade, he says.

The horizon of Nova Scotia's lumbering industry is clearing and conditions appear considerably brighter, Hon. J. H. MacQuarrie, Minister of Lands and Forests, told delegates to the recent annual convention of the Nova Scotia Fish and Game Association in Halifax. "During the present lumbering season," he said, "we will have one of the largest cuts in the history of the province."

At the recent annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Tourist Association, the secretary reported business last year as having been quite good, when set against the general background. There was still much ground to be gained, however, before the 1929 level is attained, and he believed that the present year would show an advance towards it.

Opera Stars In Dispute Over Their Dance Tunes

Rival Camps Not Speaking in Scala Theatre at Milan, Italy.

Milan.—In the midst of what promises to be a successful season, the famous Scala Opera House finds itself with half its personnel in such a huff against the other half that in many cases speaking terms have been abandoned.

The cause of this state of affairs is to be found in the ballet academy, where the directress and her prima ballerina are at odds over dancing technique. Singers, dancers, stage hands and janitors have taken sides.

Half of them support Jia Rusvala Evans, the directress, and the other half declare for Attilia Radice, the first lady of the ballet corps.

Miss Evans has injected a style into her teaching said by critics to smack strongly of Greek rhythmic dancing—and that is the basis of the fuss.

Miss Radice, on the other hand, holds true to the principles of the traditional Cocchetti School. She is a disciple of Cia Fornaroli, Miss Evan's predecessor as head of the academy, and has maintained a firm hold on the post of prima ballerina despite her differences with the present directress.

Just now the dispute has reached fever heat, because of a suit filed by Miss Evans against Miss Radice's husband, Paul Fabbri, whom she accused of defaming her artistic character.

Fabbri is one of Italy's best known critics and has consistently attacked the Evans methods in the columns of the local press. He married Miss Radice when a newspaper polemic over the two schools of dancing was at its height.

Miss Fornaroli, who once was friendly with Miss Evans and appeared with her frequently in dance programs, is now directing the San Remo ballet.

GREAT BRITAIN MAY HAVE WOMEN DIPLOMATS SOON

London. — A committee has been appointed by Sir John Simon, foreign secretary, to consider the admission of women to British diplomatic and consular posts.

The committee's appointment arises out of the report of the royal commission on the civil service of 1929-31, which stated that the question whether women should be admitted to the diplomatic and consular services raised "issue of high policy" which only the government could decide.

SEES CANADA BUYING MUCH FRUIT FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town. — "Canada Twist asks for More" runs the line under a cartoon in the Cape Town Argus. The drawing shows Canada as a lad with a big bowl inviting a matronly South Africa to fill it up again.

"Canada," says a writer in the Argus, "I see in the news, wants more maize (Indian corn) from South Africa. She also wants, and has been unable to get, more dried fruits from South Africa. I hope this Oliver Twist among South African customers will not be disappointed."

The Argus quotes a letter from a fruit dealer in Canada to the effect he has just finished the most successful season he had ever had for South African dried fruits. He made sales of 1,250,000 pounds of South African dried fruits, including raising peaches, apricots and pears. The dealer said he could have sold half as much again—another 600,000 pounds—if he had been able to get the supplies.