WHALING IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS BIG BUSINESS; FACTORY INCREASE IN 1929, 75 PER CENT

Washington, D. C. May 12—"Whaling has emerged from man's most glamorous and adventurous form of hunting to the status of an exceedingly Big Business, with the big capital B's and a third B—for the whale business is booming," says a bulletin from the Washington D. C. headquarters of the National Georgraphic Society.

"Certainly no other animal industry can show a 75 per cent. factory increase in 1929, with the expectation of a further 30 per cent. factory increase in 1930.

Widest "Pasture" Range

"And this big booming business involves coralling the biggest animal the world has ever grown, roving over the vastest "pastures" the world affords— 'pastures' that range from the Bering Sea to the Straits of Magellan, from Spitsbergen to the Bay of Whales, last airplane ports of call for the North and South poles.

"New Bedford was the world's whaling capital in the "Moby Dick days of venturesome sea dogs who risked limb life and wooden ships in hand to hand encounters with whales. In 1854 the American whaling industry reached its peak production of 12,000,000 gallone of blubber for the whale oil lamps one can find today in antique shops.

"Ting Norwegian towns, whose names you may find it hard to pronounce, if, indeed, you have heard of them—Sandefjord, Tonsberg, Haugesund and Larvik—are the ports which sent 39 floating factories, some 200 whaling boats, and nearly 10,000 men into the world's lonliest navigable seas to bring back the major share of an estimated production this year of nearly 70,000,000 gallons of whale oil.

Oil Used By Soap Makers

"Each huge steel ship that steams out of the Skaggerak, with its convoy of tiny, bobbing tenders, to go whaling in the antipodal land of the midnight sun, will return with half a million dollars of whale oil, or more, to be used for the soap that floats in American bathtubs or to help make a butter substitute for European tables.

"These steel ships are the floating factories' which anchor in sheltered coves, and there evtract the oil of the sea animals towed to them by the tenders, or catchers, which actually harpoon the whales. Most of the floating factories have flensing platforms alongside where the whale is stripped, cut up and fed to the huge vats within.

A few new vessels are equipped with a forward htach through which a whale's body is drawn by an electric windlass direct to a cutting up floor in the vessel itself. The modern miracle of a ship swallowing a whale would afford Johan a sardonic smile.

Shooting The Harpoon Gun

"Anyone who thinks science has taken the adventure out of whaling should go aboard a catcher. These 110 to 120-foot vessels, with 500 to 700 horsepower enginer, with a speed of 11 or 12 knots, afford an ultimate test of seasickness. They have no keel so they can whirl, twist and double back with the whale. On the bow of each vessel is the invention which is so whaling what the cotton gin was to texile making—the harpoon gun.

"The harpoon gun is a muzzle-loading cannon on a swivel mounting which shoots a harpoon of tempered Swedish steel, about six feet long. Set in the harpoon's end are four 12-inch barbs which spring out at 45-degrees angles when the harpoon is lodged in the body of the whale. And in the harpoon point is a bomb, charged with gunpowder, automatically fired three seconds after the shaft leaves the cannon.

"Aiming a harpoon gun at a whale from a notorious unstable craft, plunging from crest to trough of the Antarctic's rough seas, at the exact moment a whale rises to the surface for air, demands no mean marksmanship. To the harpoon shaft is attached a rope which passed over a roller on the bow of the ship and is attached to a uowerful winch. The struggling whale is played as a fisherman would play a fish with the reel on his rod.

Inflated, It Floats

"This rope serves also to bring the body to the surface while air is pumped into its body so that the balloon-like carcass, with a flag stuck into it as a marker, will float while the catcher pursues other prey.

"It was the harpoon gun that changed the geography of whaling, extending operations far into the southern seas in pursuit of the mammouth blue whale, largest living animal; the swift fin while, greyhound of the sears; and the flat-headed, hard-fighting humpback. These types were too speedy, to vicious or too lean to attract old-time hunters of the sperm whale and the southern fight whale. Moreover ,they sank when killed.

Tiny Islands Used

When one of the world's most profitable industries invaded one of the earth's bleakest and most baren regions it salvaged tiny islands from desolate obscurity. South Georgia resembles a Matterhorn rising from the frozen seas. The South Shetlands afforded only markers for heroes names—King George, Nelson and Livingstone—until some realist named 'Hell Gates.' Deception island preserves on modern maps, by its shape, the tradition of ancient charts which bore similar strange forms of coiled sea monsters.

All these islands lies in the Falkland dependencies, Great Britain's major political foothold in Antarctic. British capital is invested in some companies, British licenses must be obtained by all operating from their island ports, but the major personnell of the whaling fleets is Norwegian.

"When the huge bulk is towed along side the floating factory the flensers swarm about it, slice through the blubber the length of the body, and a winch it attached to the end of each strip, peeling off the outer coating as one would peel an orange.

"The remnant flesh and bones are torn apart and fed into the boiling pans so that, to paraphase a stockyard saying, every part of the whale is utilized except the blow. An efficient floating factory will slice and chop a whale in two hours.

Grades of Whale Oil

"Whale oil is graded as accurately as wheat. Two grades are made entirely from the blubber, which yields a pale yellow oil with but a faint fishy odor, used primarily in cosmetics and comestibles. The residue from these grades is extracted it left in boiilng pans, the flash thrown in, and, under pressure, a grade of darker color and higher acid content is produced. The fresh and bones together yield 'bone oil,' and the lowest grade of all is the dark, odorour oil useful only for lubrication.

In one year one Norwegian company reported a gross profit of nearly $3,000,000. A whaling captain, as befits a captain of industry man receive as much as $40,000 for a season of nine months.

Must Keep Diary

This year every whaling captain has a new diary—a record of the number, kinds and location of his catches This will contribute to a proposed scientific study of the habit of whales —including the food they eat, their migration routes from Antarctic to tropical waters, and other data about their habits. Both the British and the Norwegian governments have passed restrictive legislation lest the tremendous increases in whaling dangerously deplete whales, as injudicious sealing did the seals.

"Science known surprisingly little about the largest living creature. It can only guess, as yet, at the life span of the whale. It is known haw they eat. They open their mammouth mouths, and as they plough through the seas thousands of tiny crustaceans and other minute sea organisms are swept in. These catch on the fringes of their baleen (whalebone), and are sucked down continuously, like soda through a straw, while the salt water filters out again through a straw, while the salt water filters out again through the sorners of their mouths.

Oceanic "Hash"

"The generic name of this food is plankton, which is no more precisely discriptive of the items therein than the human appellations of 'hash' or pot pourri."

"An elephant or a hippopotamus is a child's idea of a sizeable animal. It is hard for an adult who has not seen one to comprehend the enormous size of a whale. Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews made exact measurement of one specimen. It was 78 feet long and weighed 63 tons, the equivalent of a hundred steers, or three score limousines of fairly heavy type. Its bones alone about equal the weight of the eight-ton winter's coal supply of a small house. Its flesh tipped the scale at 40 tons, it gielded eight tons of blubber, and the blood, viscera and baleen made up the other seven tons.

"The blubber of a whale is one of nature's most interesting examples of adaptation. Prehistoric land mammals grew too large to move about readily and obtain food, so they became extinct. A bird, like an airplane, cannot exceed a body size that its wings will support in air. But in the friendly, buoyant oceans the whale grew larger and larger. Even the hughest dinosaurs never outweighed a whale. Give him time, scientists believe, and as the ages roll on he may grow larger still!"

AND SO SHE BECAME SALLIE FOR ALL TIME

(New York Sun)

Names of movie stars, Biblical characters, conteporary heroes of the world of jazz and just names culled from lists provided for such a purpose by manufacturers of patent medicines—male and female, of course—had been considered carefully and long by both parties interested in the forthcoming blessed event.

The thing had slimmered down to three or four boys' names and three or four girls' names—all of them simply grand. Any of them would have done in a pinch, and there would have been nothing to apologize for.

The baby was born. It was a girl. The mother turned to the father and calmly inquired:

"What are we going to name her, Herman "

Herman felt just as if his best friend suddenly had said to him, with a gun thrust into his chest:

"I'm going to kill you after I count three. I'll give you one last word to say."

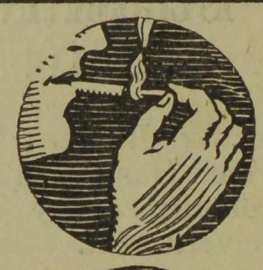
And so Herman said:

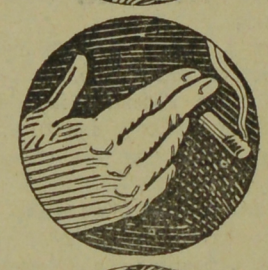
What's become of her doesn't matter, but Sallie she is.

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