

QUEER FINDS IN FISH.

The Stomach of a Cod Is Sometimes a Sort of Museum.

A GLUTTON, NOT AN EPICURE

All Manner of Odd Things Are Eagerly Devoured by This Voracious Feeder. The Singular Adventure of a Ten Dollar Gold Piece.

One day in 1903 A. E. Levy of New York felt the piscatorial fever surging through his system, so took a day off and went out to the fishing banks to try his luck. As he was dressing his catch that same evening he discovered in the stomach of a cod a ten dollar gold piece, with two diamonds set on one side and the initials P. C. E. on the other. Levy was so amazed that he sent the story to the papers, and it was copied throughout the country.

He hardly expected ever to hear from it, but a few weeks later was surprised to receive a letter from Patrick C. Evans, residing in Kansas, who claimed the piece as his own and presented sufficient evidence of this to satisfy Levy, who accordingly turned it over to him. It seems that Evans was in New York earlier in the year and spent a day blackfishing in the lower bay, and as he was hauling in a fish the chain to which the coin was attached got caught in the rigging of the sloop, which just then rolled, the chain snapped, and away went the coin, never to be recovered, as he then supposed.

One of the saddest finds recorded was that of a St. John's (N. F.) fisherman, who discovered a wedding ring in the entrails of a cod in 1871. It was eventually proved to have belonged to Pauline Burnam, an Englishwoman who was lost in the steamship Anglo Saxon, wrecked off Chance Cove, N. F., in 1861. The lucky fisherman received a present of £50 for restoring the highly prized memento to the woman's son.

A Havre fisherman's wife, drying codfish caught by her husband on the coast of France in 1904, noticed that one fish had a hard substance inside. On investigation she found in the fish a golden bracelet. How the ornament came into its strange receptacle is, of course, not known, but it is conjectured that it must have slipped from the wrist of some fair passenger leaning over the bulwarks of a transatlantic liner and been seized by the cod.

Last year the greater part of the male and part of the female population of the village of Portishead, at the mouth of the Avon, in England, turned anglers for awhile. Fishing tackle and bait boomed for some time, and all because one of the local anglers shortly before had landed a good sized fish, and when it came to be dissected on the domestic table it was found to "include" a diamond ring declared to be worth \$150.

While discharging a fare of codfish from the schooner Vinnie M. Gatchell at Gloucester, Mass., in 1886, Captain John M. Gatchell, master of the vessel, found imbedded in the thick flesh of a large cod a knife of curious workmanship. The fish was caught on the northeast part of George's bank in seventy-five fathoms of water and was apparently healthy. The knife was not found until some time after the fish had been cured. When found the knife blade was closed, and the small or posterior end or the handle was nearest the tail of the fish, the flesh at this place being about two and a half inches thick. The knife when closed was three and five-eighths inches long.

In 1884 Captain McEachern of the Gloucester schooner A. F. Gifford found a knife—one of the kind known to fishermen as a haddock ripper—in the stomach of a forty-five pound cod which had been caught on the Le Have bank.

Lars Petersen, an able seaman of the steamship Hypatia, which arrived in New York in 1903 from St. Lucia, made a curious find on the voyage. After the vessel left St. Lucia a large gray shark was seen following it. For two days it continued in the wake of the ship, when Petersen resolved to get it. Procuring a large hook, he baited it with salt pork and after some difficulty landed the monster, which measured almost twelve feet from tip to tip. Upon opening its stomach Petersen discovered there a ring with the initials L. H. B. engraved on the inside.

Owing to the fact that cod seek their food on the bottom and are voracious feeders, their stomachs when opened frequently present a curious and sometimes amusing collection of odds and ends. Bits of leather, marine spikes,

iron bolts, a ball of twine, leaden sounding plummet, hoofs of deer, scissors, brass, oil cans, potato parings, corn-cobs, the head of a rubber doll, stones and big shells have been found in them. A codfish caught at Vineyard Haven was found to have in its stomach two full grown ducks. When taken out they were quite fresh, having most of their feathers on.

Because the heel of a rubber boot and fragments of a rubber coat, together with a knife, were found in the stomach of a cod one day a Gloucester wag reported, and the story was taken seriously for a time, that the fish had eaten the fisherman to whom they had belonged and that these were the undigested fragments. —New York Tribune.

Mean.
Maude—Tom is a strange fellow. He proposed to me in church last Sunday during the sermon. Belle—Are you sure he wasn't talking in his sleep, dear?—Boston Transcript.

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CRITICISE SENATE.

Utah Enemies of Smoot Angry at Seating of Senator.

SALT LAKE CITY, March 7.—An immense mass meeting was held at the Salt Lake theatre tonight under the auspices of the American Party protested against the seating in the senate of Reed Smoot. When one of the speakers alluded to the president as the "dear friend of Senator Smoot" he was interrupted by a few persons in the audience with jeers, hisses and cries of "Roosevelt. The meeting adopted a resolution protesting against the seating of Senator Smoot and declares the Senate departed from accord and ignored proofs and claimed as facts essential things which had no support in evidence.

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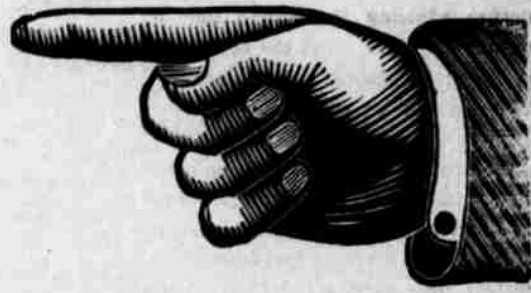
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