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THE AMERICAN EXHIBIT FOR THE LONDON FISH EXHIBITION.

A Washington correspondent of the *New York Times* states that the collection of objects illustrating the fishing industries of the United States, to be shown at the exhibition of fish and fisheries to be opened in London on the 1st of May, is substantially complete. As shown by the late census, the fisheries of the United States exceed in value those of any other country, and it is the design of the fish commission to make the American exhibit at London as superior to all others as our Berlin display was. The collection for this purpose is now distributed in the various departments of the national museum, and, says the correspondent named, the visitor is amazed at its completeness. It shows both what has been done and what is being done to develop our important fishing interests, and comprises a complete representation of American ichthyology.

The exhibit contains a full set of plaster casts of all the important fresh and salt water fish of the national waters, modeled from natural specimens and colored from life.

These casts will be further supplemented with photographs of all the fish, each picture giving the exact length and size of the fish. To these are added alcoholic preparations of the fish themselves. All the works written on American fish are to be sent, with the fishing literature of to-day. To illustrate the whaling business every variety of harpoon, lance, and gun in use, with all the projectiles employed in the capture of the cetaceans, are shown on screens. This collection is endless. The archaeology of whaling has been exhausted to make this exhibit perfect. There will be sent a perfect whale boat, thoroughly equipped with everything that is wanted, down to the tinder box. In this collection are exhibited the log books of former whaling cruises, which are very curious specimens of marine compilations.

When a whale is captured, it is the habit of the captain to print with a wooden stamp, right across the page, a picture of a whale, but when whales are seen and not captured, the fact of having sighted them is shown by means of another stamp, which presents the tail only of the creature. Looking over such logs, it is curious to notice that, considering the number of whales seen, few have escaped capture. All the make-shifts of the whaler, who is so long away from land, have been brought together, such as strange lamps, manufactured out of tumblers, and other ingenious things. Here are rough skates, fashioned out of files, which some ice-bound sailor has made and used, perhaps, for sport or to follow the sea elephants over the slippery ice. There are charts here, too, over which New Bedford skippers have pondered many a long dark winter's day, when nipped in the ice, wondering whether they could ever get free of the floes and track their way back to the New England coast.

Clever Yankee inventions are there here for slicing blubber so as to try out the oil, and various are the tubs, buckets, and pails in use in securing the oil. Here is a peculiarly formed vessel, which is lowered down into the head of a sperm whale, so as to bail out every drop of the precious oil. Old New England haunts have been ransacked in order to procure these objects, belonging to the past and present, all of which serve to explain the history of the whaling business. In a special

portion of the museum building the heads of departments, with workmen under their charge, are placing the various objects on screens.

Two objects particularly attract attention. One is the bow of a whale boat, and on it is the figure of a harpooner as large as life, with arms outstretched ready to throw the iron. The other is the bowsprit of a sword fisherman, with a man on the bowsprit, harpoon in hand, in the act of darting the grains into the *Xiphias gladius*. These two exhibits, which are exceedingly clever in conception, the action of the figures having been skillfully modeled, will decorate the entrance to the American exhibit in London.

In order to better explain the complete character of any department, that of the oysters will show as well as anything else that thoroughness which is the main object of the United States fish commission. The geographical distribution of all the edible mollusks on the American coast will be shown by means of maps. Then the biology and embryology of the oyster will be explained. Next will be shown the variety of oysters and such differences as may be due to environment, with those changes having their origin in culture. The fishery of the oysters will then be illustrated with models of all the varieties of vessels, boats used, with the actual dredges, tongs, etc., which serve to take them.

A model of an oyster bed in its natural condition is being made, with other models showing how excessive dredging has changed its face. All the enemies of the oysters are to be exhibited. After this comes the numerous methods of packing and canning oysters for food. For instance, a pungy dumps on a Baltimore wharf her hundreds of bushels of oysters, and in an hour afterward, they have been opened and canned and ready for transportation. The apparatus and industrial methods are all to be shown by models. In this oyster exhibit alone there will be over three hundred different objects.

An exceedingly novel feature of the exhibition will be the presentation of all the phases of fishing, illustrated in a pictorial way. To do this, photographic artists attached to the museum have traveled all along the coast and taken their pictures from life. Besides this, a whole series of sketches in crayon have been made illustrative of river and sea fishing. Every picture has attached to it a printed label. For instance, here is one entitled "Dressing Mackerel," which reads as follows: "On the left is a man splitting mackerel. In the center another 'gibbing' or eviscerating the fish, which he holds in his left hand. The man on the right, dressed in a 'petticoat barrel' is 'cutting away.'" etc.

Every stage, then, in American fishing is illustrated, from the way the fish is caught until it is finally prepared for food. Here are scenes of vessels caught in a gale of wind, with fishermen in dories rowing for their lives, in order to escape from the coming storm. Characteristics of the fishermen have not been overlooked. Here is a group of Irish fishermen who draw the net or set the line in and around Boston, who still, in a certain measure, adhere to the old country methods, using some of their Irish gear. Here are Portuguese, Malay, Kanackas and Chinese fishermen, the gleaming of the American seas attracting labor from all parts of the world. The Indian porpoise fisherman is represented,

who launches his frail boat and, with a rusty musket, rarely misses the ocean pig.

In food preparations the exhibition will be very comprehensive. Of canned fish over 200 various brands will be shown, almost every fish packing house of importance in the United States having sent samples. It may be stated, as showing how great is the development of this business, that \$5,000,000 worth of general fish products are exported to-day from the United States, of which as much as \$2,000,000 is represented by canned goods alone. The oil from the menhaden, the fertilizers, the fish glues, all find an appropriate place.

In fish culture, every process in use in the United States will be exhibited. One of the most attractive features will be a series of tables provided with the various apparatus. This apparatus may be divided into three departments—the closed apparatus, the trough and the floating apparatus. There will be a large water tank, the water in which will be forced through the fish hatching appliances by means of a gas engine. Form, color and appearance of the various kinds of eggs will be imitated by means of glass beads. Another important feature will be the models of a group of experts in the act of procuring the eggs and the milt from the salmon. These figures of life size will show exactly the manipulation used in stripping salmon.

There will be photographs of all the American fish which have been propagated by fish culture in the United States, as explaining the development of the egg; an entire series of specimens will be shown, illustrating the growth of the fish in the egg from day to day, to be followed by others explanatory of the size and condition of the fish after it has been hatched out. The fish hatching apparatus will be practical working ones, exactly such as are used, with all the appliances which serve for the transportation of the eggs, the young fish, the feeding troughs, the fish pens, with models of the cars used to carry young fish over the United States. Finally, on a large map will be shown all the hatching houses in the country, with the various points where shad, salmon, trout, white fish, carp, etc., have been distributed.

When the section of apparatus used by our fishermen is examined, the visitor is amazed at its magnitude. Here is a model of that vast net used by the mackereler, and to show its size a model of a mackerel schooner, with the seine boat, is suspended near it. Some idea is thus had of proportion. The lines, hooks, trawls, and engines of capture will fill innumerable cases. After this come the rods, reels, lines, and flies used by the angler. Here are cases of flies with pictures of the insects which they imitate.

A fishing box—one of those light, portable boxes which pack up in small space—will show our English friends how the American angler takes his ease. This house will have in it all the traps the snigler may want, his bed, his store, and his cooking utensils.

Nothing has been forgotten or overlooked which might illustrate the ways and manners of our New England fisherman, for here are his amusements, his games, the literature that he reads, the medicines he takes, the clothes he wears, the food he eats. There is the greasy pack of cards, thumbed almost out of existence, with which he plays euchre or high low jack, and—the accordion

that wails melancholy of nights, or the fiddle, which, when he scrapes, brings the wind.

As to books, his library is larger than one would think. There are his Bible, Shakespeare, Walter Scott, and next to it "Robinson Crusoe;" there are "Two Years before the Mast," all Dickens, with the "Red Rover of the Seas," and old Captain Maryatt with the younger Russell. Here are love stories of the most languishing kind, with song books innumerable.

Fisherman Jack takes little medicine if he can help it, but here is his rough and ready pharmacopoeia; plasters for his wounds, and castor oil, and blue mass, and one immensely big box, as large as a salt box, labeled epsom salts.

Where the description extends over the innumerable columns, it would hardly give more than a scant idea of the thoroughness of this exhibition. All sea birds, the animals which prey on fish, will be sent, together with all the primitive fishing gear in use by the American Indians. In addition to the objects illustrating fish and fishing, the lighthouse board and life saving service will send exhibits. Everything has been so arranged and systematized that the process of installation in England will require but very little labor.

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