

to thirty-four in 1885. The fatal result of this increase in the intensity of the fishery was soon apparent, for after about the year 1900 whaling at most of the Finmark stations ceased to pay and steadily declined. In 1905 most of the companies transferred their headquarters to Bear Island and Spitsbergen, but there too the industry was not of long duration. Too many boats destroyed the fishery, and by 1910 fishing in these waters was entirely abandoned. Subsequent attempts to revive the industry at Spitsbergen in 1920 and 1925-26 proved ruinous to the companies concerned.

Whale fishing off Iceland commenced about the year 1890 with eight whaling vessels. The catch at first was good and the number of boats increased to thirty in 1902. Thereafter there followed a steady decline in the catches. One station after another had to close, and Iceland whaling ceased altogether in 1915. The history of the whale fishing at the Faroes is in many ways similar to that of Finmark and Iceland. As the number of boats increased the catch per boat greatly decreased, and many stations ceased to operate. But during the War whaling stopped to a large extent. This proved good for the stock, and post-War catches off the Faroes, with fewer boats as compared with the number employed before the War, have yielded reasonable profits.

The same tale of rapid initial growth and subsequent decline is told of whaling in the Straits of Gibraltar, off South Africa, and on the west coast of America, and in a final sentence Ingebrigtsen states his firm conviction that the great modern extension of whaling in the Antarctic will undoubtedly, in spite of its vast tracts of ocean and apparently enormous numbers of whales, produce in the course of some years the same results as in all other waters—namely, a decreasing stock of whales from year to year.

G. A. S.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—At King's College the following have been elected to Fellowships: Mr. A. E. Ingham, reader in mathematics at the University of Leeds; and Mr. R. F. Kahn, Wrenbury Scholar (1928) and Adam Smith prizeman (1929).

CARDIFF.—H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will visit Cardiff on May 21 to open the new chemistry and physics wing of the University College, and the Department of Public Health of the Welsh National School of Medicine.

Mr. H. J. Phelps has been appointed as assistant lecturer and demonstrator in physiology.

EDINBURGH.—On the recommendation of the Faculty of Medicine, the Cameron Prize for 1930 has been awarded to Dr. George R. Minot, physician-in-chief, Collis P. Huntington Memorial Hospital of Harvard, Boston, Mass., and Dr. William P. Murphy, assistant physician, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass., conjointly, for their work on the liver treatment of pernicious anæmia.

The Senatus has resolved to offer the honorary degree of doctor of laws to the following, among others: Sir Thomas Barlow, Physician-Extraordinary to H.M. the King; Sir Otto Beit, trustee of the Rhodes Trust and founder of the Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research; Sir William Hardy, director of food investigation, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Sir David Wallace, consulting surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Prof. W. W. Watts, professor of geology, Imperial College of Science, South Kensington; Prof. K. F. Wenckebach, emeritus professor of medicine, University of Vienna.

Historic Natural Events.

Mar. 23, 1233. Thunderstorm and Floods.—There was a great and terrible tempest of thunder, and after followed a marvellous wet summer with many floods.

Mar. 23, 1913. Electrical Storm.—An usually severe electrical storm occurred in the western part of Kansas, U.S.A. High winds were blowing from south-west or west, and the air was warm, very dry, and filled with dust; there was no rain. Windmills, especially steel mills mounted on wooden supports, became so highly charged with static electricity that anyone touching them received a distinct, sometimes a severe shock. At Tribune, sparks two or three inches long were drawn from a wire running to a windmill. Telephone and telegraph wires and wire fences also became charged, and in Scott County, where the disturbance was most severe, a prairie fire is thought to have been started by sparks at a break in a wire fence, as in several places distinct sparks were noted on holding the broken ends of wire fences together. In Thomas County all green vegetation was killed, and in Sheridan County the wheat turned brown. The sky was obscured by a leaden or copper-coloured haze, and most people experienced nervous depression.

Mar. 24, 1878. *Eurydice* Squall.—A V-shaped trough of low pressure crossed England from north-west to south-east, and with its passage the wind changed from a moderate westerly breeze to a north-westerly gale. The wind velocity was not especially great, but there were some violent north-westerly squalls with sleet or snow, during one of which the training ship H.M.S. *Eurydice* foundered with all hands off Dunnose Head, near Ventnor. The loss of life was about 300.

Mar. 24, 1895. Gale.—This was described as the worst gale of the nineteenth century in the English Midlands. At 8 A.M., a well-marked depression was centred over the Shetland Isles, and during the afternoon a small but intense secondary depression traversed England and Wales with a velocity of 58 miles per hour. The greatest destruction was caused by a south-westerly gale along a narrow belt (only 30-50 miles in width) to the right or south-east of the track followed by the centre of the secondary. Very great damage was done to property, many churches were injured and thousands of trees uprooted, and several lives were lost. In the observatory at Birmingham the oscillation of the building stopped the clock.

Mar. 25, 1241. Drought.—It is recorded in Matthew Paris's Chronicle that "From the Annunciation to SS. Simon and Jude (Mar. 25-Oct. 28), continued drought and intolerable heat dried up deep lakes and extensive marshes, drained many rivers, parched up the warrens, and suspended the working of mills; hence the pastures withered away, herbage died, and consequently the flocks and herds pined away with hunger and died".

Mar. 26, 1812. Earthquake in Venezuela.—The town of Caracas was utterly ruined by an earthquake felt throughout Venezuela and as far as Carthagena (600 miles). The shock occurred shortly after 4 P.M. As it was Ascension Day, large crowds had collected in the churches before the processions through the streets began, and three or four thousand persons were killed by the fall of the roofs. Throughout Venezuela, more than 20,000 persons perished. On April 24, the first eruption of the Soufrière of St. Vincent since 1718 began. The noise from it was heard at Caracas (nearly 400 miles).

Mar. 27, 1606. Great Storm in Belgium.—At 8 A.M. began a great tempest of wind which continued