

Knight and himself on the 'Leucite Hills of Wyoming.' This joint paper was given at the Washington meeting of the Geological Society of America.

December 12.—Dr. Julien reviewed a paper in a late number of the *Bulletin de la Société Belge de Géologie* on the origin of the curious granite enclosed in the arkose of the St. Etienne coal basin.

Professor Grabau presented a very interesting paper on the origin of limestones. This was presented at the Washington meeting of the Geological Society of America.

H. W. SHIMER.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

FIRST RECORD OF THE POLLACK WHALE (*BALÆNOPTERA BOREALIS*) IN THE WESTERN NORTH ATLANTIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I am in receipt of reliable information that during the season of 1902 four finback whales of a species corresponding to, or identical with, *Balænoptera borealis* Lesson were taken at the whaling station at Rose-au-Rue, Placentia Bay, Newfoundland. This is the first authentic record of this form of finback in the western North Atlantic. The species is called 'Sejhval' (pollack whale) by the Norwegian whalers. Whether the species taken at Newfoundland is really identical with the European species can of course only be determined by examination of specimens.

The species named *B. tuberosa* by Cope, on the basis of a specimen killed in Mobjack Bay, Virginia, may be the same as the Newfoundland pollack whale, but the description of that species is inadequate for a positive determination, and the whereabouts of the type is at present uncertain. It is quite as probable that the Mobjack Bay whale represented *B. physalus* L.

The Newfoundland whale fishery, which was established in 1898, has grown to large proportions. The kinds of whales taken are the humpback (*Megaptera nodosa*) and three species of finbacks, namely, the common finback (*Balænoptera physalus* L.), the sulphur-bottom (*B. musculus* L.) and, as just noted,

the pollack whale (*B. borealis*, or an American representative of that species).

According to the figures kindly placed in my hands by Dr. L. Rissmuller, more than 450 whales were taken at the Newfoundland stations during the season of 1902. The number of each kind taken at four of the stations was as follows:

| Station. | Sulphur-bottoms. | Common Finbacks | Pollack Whales. | Humpbacks. | Total. |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|--------|
| Snook's Arm Station* | | 79 | | 21 | 100 |
| Balena Station†..... | 65 | 31 | | 11 | 107 |
| Chaleur Station†..... | 60 | 11 | | 6 | 77 |
| Rose-au-Rue Station†.. | 5 | 70 | 4 | 9 | 88 |
| Total..... | 130 | 191 | 4 | 47 | 372 |

The fifth station, at Aquaforte, took about 100 whales, mostly humpbacks.

The existence and importance of this fishery are as yet not widely known in the United States. Thus, in the latest number of the *American Museum Journal* (January, 1903, p. 10), in a notice of a probable sulphur-bottom, it is stated that "whalers know this species as the 'finner' or 'finback' (*B. musculus*) and do not prize it, on account of the small amount of blubber and the small size of the whalebone it carries." When it is considered that a sulphur-bottom whale is worth about \$1,000 it becomes evident that this statement is hardly warranted.

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A SECOND BISHOP'S RING AROUND THE SUN AND THE RECENT UNUSUAL TWILIGHT GLOWS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: A glare around the sun merging into a faint smoky red or purple ring 5° to 10° wide, with the maximum color about 30° from the sun, has been observed here during the past two weeks. Mr. Rotch noticed a smoky ring around the sun on one day in August but no further unusual glare or color was noticed around the sun

* East coast.

† South coast.