

become such an article of food among the Italians of New York that we can obtain better prices by shipping them there, than by selling them for bait."

From the foregoing, it would appear that with the increase of population in this country and with a better knowledge of the food value of certain species of marine animals which have heretofore not come into general use, it is supposable that the food supply from our ocean fisheries can be very considerably increased. Some species of fish that are held in the highest esteem in Europe, and which occur in the greatest abundance off our coasts, are seldom or never eaten by Americans, and there is practically no demand for them in our markets. Perhaps the most noted of these is the Skate (*Raia*), while many species of the flat-fishes—flounders, dabs, etc.—are so little prized that their capture is a matter of minor commercial consequence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 20, 1888.*

41.—NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MACKEREL OFF THE COAST OF FLORIDA.

By J. W. COLLINS.

Capt. John W. Emmons, master of the schooner *Belle of the Bay*, of New London, Conn., recently arrived in New York from a winter's fishing cruise for Red Snappers on the grounds off of Cape Canaveral, Florida. He fished in that region from December 12, 1887, to April 14, 1888. In a conversation which I had with him three days ago, he stated that during January of the present year he saw several schools of mackerel in the vicinity of Cape Canaveral, but chiefly about 15 to 25 miles southeast from the cape, and that as many as one hundred specimens of the fish were caught by his crew on the fishing gear used for the capture of Red Snappers. These mackerel were from 12 to 15 inches in length. The captain is confident that they were all of the common species, *Scomber scombrus*.

Although he frequently saw schools of mackerel, he is of the opinion that purse-seines could not be used because of the abundance of sharks, which would tear the nets to pieces.

WASHINGTON, *April 25, 1888.*