

on his way to the African Reef and ran aground on the spot known locally as "Hell's Gates". The boat was badly holed and broke up during the evening, before it was possible to salvage any gear.

### MARINE POLLUTION

Advice has been received that the Government has set up a Committee to advise what measures should be taken to combat pollution of seas, beaches, rivers and ports.

Mr. F.W.E. Tydeman, General Manager of the Fremantle Harbour Trust, has been appointed Chairman, and the undermentioned as members -

Mr. J.E. Parker, Deputy Director of Works;  
Mr. K.G. Forsyth, Manager Harbour and Lights  
Department;  
Mr. W.P. Cass Smith, Department of  
Agriculture;  
Mr. A.J. Fraser, Superintendent of Fisheries;

The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. H.C. Rudderham, of the Fremantle Harbour Trust.

The inaugural meeting of the Committee was held at the Board Room of the Fremantle Harbour Trust at 3 p.m. on September 30.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he would shortly be attending a meeting of the Australian Port Authorities Association at which a report on the decisions recently reached overseas would be made.

(vide Vol. III No. 6, June 1954 issue of this  
Bulletin.)

### SPERM WHALES

The Commonwealth Director of Fisheries (Mr. F.F. Anderson) advised during the month that permission had been granted for the Cheyne Beach Whaling Company to prospect for sperm whales. To this the Department has agreed.

Sperm oil has been for many years a valued product of the sperm whale, which so far has not been synthesised owing to its chemical makeup. It is unique among oils in that it contains fatty alcohols which make it suitable for particular uses. There is a good demand for it in the leather and fur trades and also in the textile industry for finishing cotton and rayon thread. Because of its penetrating powers and rust preventive properties it is widely used in industry. Milady must thank sperm oil for the lustre in her high quality shampoos.

Spermaceti, another product from the head of the sperm whale, is used in the preparation of cosmetics, shaving and cold creams, ointments and pill coatings.