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SPERM WHALING AT ALBANY

New records in the taking of sperm whales were established this season by the Cheynes Beach Whaling Co. Ltd. Operating from its base at Frenchman's Bay, the Company took 454 sperms in the season which extended from March 23 to November 30. During that period the Company also secured its quota of humpbacks in record time, the allotment of 105 being taken in 8 weeks.

Allowing for time spent purely in search of humpbacks, the sperms were taken at an average rate of 13 a week, the best week's catch being for the week ended June 33, when 32 were landed. Production reached its peak in September when 87 were taken, but November was almost as successful, for 82 were caught during that month.

Generally, the sperm whales were well in excess of the minimum size of 35 feet. The average length was about 43½ feet and a little less than one barrel of oil was produced per foot. Meal production was 752 tons.

Improvements to be effected at the station include a new office and a new separator. Machinery will be overhauled and the chasers will be slipped and refitted in time for the re-opening of operations. This has been tentatively scheduled for April next. Inspector Carmichael reports that 'plane spotting has proved so successful that the company has made arrangements for the purchase of a new aircraft, a Cessna 172-A fitted with floats to enable it to operate from an approved site at the mouth of the Kalgan River in Oyster Harbour. The Cessna is expected to arrive from America in the first week of the new year.