Hailing—hand called which up to very recently has been the sole right of the Norwegians—has now been invaded by the English. Later Bros. are sending out a fleet next season to obtain a supply of oil for their factories. This firm is one of the biggest manufacturers of soap and scene in the world. That whale oil is greatly used for the making of soap, and the fact of its being so plentiful in the Ross Sea, has caused them to take this step and expend the money on a fleet of their own.

On arrival at the factory, as the mother ship is called, the whale is hauled up the ramp on the deck, where it is attended to by the divers. These are the men who see to the cutting-up of the carcass. The first thing done when it is safely landed on deck is to take off three strips of blubber. This is done by means of powerful winches. Then the carcass is turned over and another strip is removed. The remainder is now ready to be sent to the fore deck, where it is sawed up by steam saws and put into the cookers.

In the Land of the Midnight Sun—Whaling in the Frozen Antarctic

The N.W. Yacht Haven in the Ross Sea.
The whale is hauled on the deck. The catch is now ready to be removed.

Cutting away the lower jaw of a whale.

It is about another six or eight days, according to the thickness of the ice, to the waters of the Ross Sea. Probably the Australian will soon realize this, and the fact that there is about a million pounds worth of oil taken away by the Norwegians every year from the Ross Sea. While being entertained by the Marine Board in Hobart this year, Captain Hans Andersen said that there are whales enough in the Ross Sea for as many ships as like to go there for years to come.

But there is another wealth besides whale oil in the Ross Sea and Victoria Land, which borders the eastern shores of the Ross Sea. There is enough coal to supply the whole world for half a century if only men could find some means of overcoming the cold and thawing the earth so as to make the sinking of shafts possible. The earth is frozen as hard as steel to a great depth below the surface, and remains in this state winter and summer alike. The summer is not long enough or hot enough to penetrate to any depth into the frozen earth. Were this coal accessible, and with the oil taken from the whales down there, the Ross Sea would prove the richest of all England's possessions.
Whale media archive

The one that got away...

The Mercury, Saturday January 7, 2006

ONLY a thin screen of mist created by Greenpeace activists saved this whale from being one of the 845 whales Japan plans to kill for research this summer.

The mist was created by one of two high-powered water cannons being used in Greenpeace’s battle to stop whaling in the Southern Oceans.

They pump water straight from the ocean to spray through the air – creating a screen of mist which prevents the harpoonists from having a clear shot at the whale before it is hunting.

Greenpeace’s expedition leader Shana Ratnam said his team saved at least 12 whales on one day this week.

Mr Ratnam said disrupting the view of the harpoonists not only allowed that whale to escape but also meant hunters had to find another whale to chase.

Battle resumes: Page 3

Brown wants navy sent to Southern Ocean

Protest fails to halt carnage