

fish (*Sargus*, *Box*, *Pristipoma*), besides fry of the horse-mackerel (*Caranx trachurus*), and hake. The fishermen gave us the whole of the catch and would take nothing for it. On parting from them we felt that we had made the acquaintance of capable energetic men, engaged in an interesting industry.

The guide-books sold on the islands state that the fishing industry is undeveloped, because the island population is apathetic, and the Spanish Government little interested in it. This is hardly correct; their African fishing seems to evince both enterprise and a power of adaptation to circumstances. It is no small matter to have to sail in the trade-winds, which are sometimes very violent off the coast of Africa, and there is besides an absence of harbours. The fish caught are best suited for selling alive in the local markets, and it is

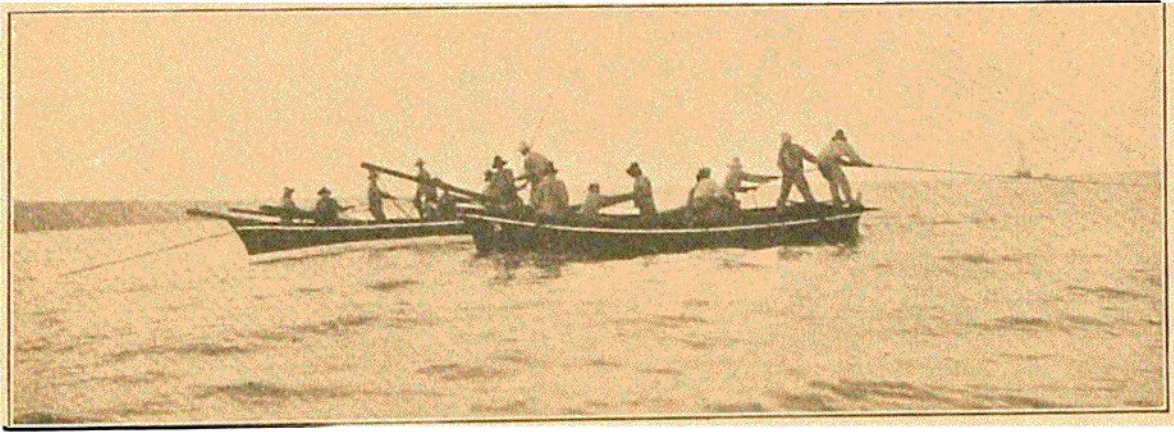


FIG. 54.—HAULING IN THE SEINE.

extremely doubtful whether it would pay to start a fishery on a large scale, as has often been proposed, and commence salting and drying. The kinds of fish may possibly be unsuitable for curing, and the warm climate is very likely less favourable than that of northern lands. As long ago as the middle of the eighteenth century an enterprising man named George Glas made great efforts to establish a fishery, and maintained that the Spanish did not need to depend on Newfoundland for their fish, as they could make their African coast fishery the richest in the world. He did his utmost to prove the truth of his assertion, but failed, partly because of the natural difficulties, and partly owing to various tragic occurrences. Taking everything into account, the conditions under which it is carried on and the present state of the markets, the fishing industry of the Canary Islands is quite creditable, and the friendliness of the fishermen towards our expedition was much appreciated by all on board.