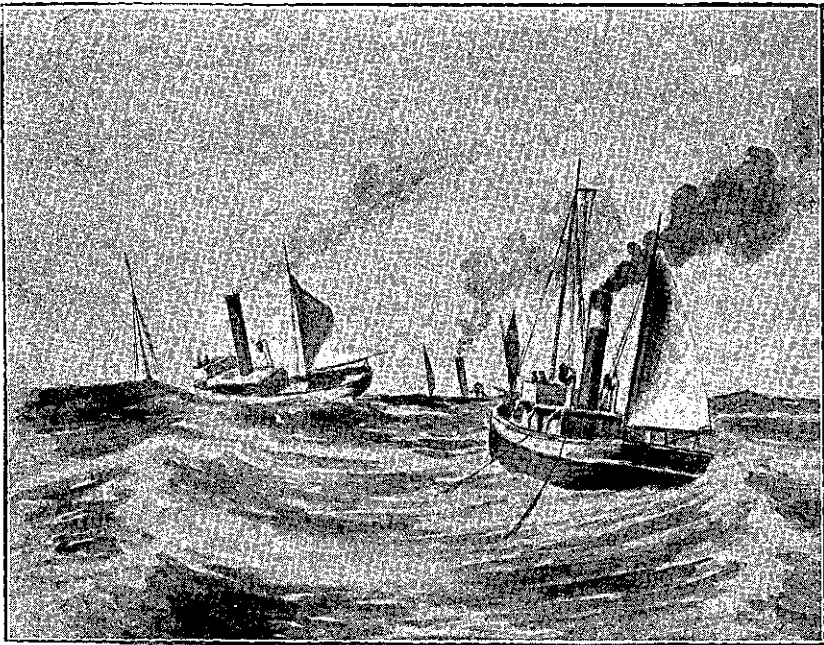


coast line under the great, towering tussock-grown cliffs. We pass a couple of small bays without stopping, and then as a third comes into view we lower our mainsail, and standing in under the jib, get ready to set our first net. Louie now takes the tiller, whilst Peter, standing up in the middle of the smack, clears the net sinkers and makes everything ready for a start. "Fetch her up," calls Peter suddenly, and obedient to the helm the little vessel swings round into the wind; then waiting till she slows up, he heaves the stone sinkers over-

as the smack stands away again, her brown sails swelling to the breeze, is left floating an oil can to mark the presence of our net. Then as soon as the six nets which form our complement have been successfully laid, we haul up to the wind and stand off on a long tack to seaward. The breeze has steadied down now to a good fresh nor'-wester, and the seas are capped with white flashing tops that burst against our staunch little smack's bows with a steady drumming; the air is crisp with the flying spray that rises from each plunge of our



Further away still steam launches buzzed busily about in search of sport.

side and commences slowly paying out the net. With her jib just drawing the smack crawls slowly ahead, the net paying out over her counter as she goes until presently the last cork bobs overside, and leaning out, Peter paws out the buoy line with an oil tin tied to it to mark the net. Then "set your mainsail!" is the cry, and hoisting away, we soon have it spread and are under weigh once more.

Each bay that Peter fancies is visited in like manner, and in each,

craft and the wind whistles through the rigging with a hearty, joyous note. Here and there along the coast to north and south of us may be seen the sails of the other smacks, warm, ruddy patches of colour against the blue of sea and sky, or set in the middle distance of purple hill and cliff side. Further away still, as if they disdained to be seen with mere smacks, steam launches buzzed busily about searching for sport.

Presently it is down mainsail