

## Fisheries of the Dominion.

The improved state and abundant yield of the Canadian Fisheries, during the past year, has led to increased prosperity of the fishing population; and the consequent revival of the fish trade. This gratifying result is undoubtedly mainly due to the beneficent laws enacted by Parliament; and the judicious and careful system of protection and regulation which have been carried out by the Department of Marine and Fisheries in obedience to them.

### VALUE OF FISH CAUGHT.

Without reckoning the catch by foreigners, the actual value of fish exported (during the last year) from our waters now exceeds \$7,000,000, nearly doubling in 10 years. The labor and capital engaged in the fisheries have correspondingly increased.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries states the aggregate value of the fish products of the Provincial Fisheries is nearly \$17,000,000; and may be increased.

Americans employ—tonnage varying—between eight and eleven hundred vessels in these fisheries. Their estimated annual catch, chiefly within the three mile limit, is valued at about \$8,000,000. The probable value of capital embarked in carrying on the inshore fisheries is computed at \$9,000,000.

Under the Reciprocity Treaty the quantity of fish caught by United States fishermen was more than double their catch prior to 1854. While the licensing system was in force, their operations were somewhat restricted; and last season the exclusion of American fishing vessels from the inshore limits, and the denial of certain facilities for prosecuting the fisheries just outside of the boundary, have caused a further serious decrease, the major part of the fishing fleet having returned with little more than half fares, and many vessels almost entirely failed to procure cargoes.

The fisheries of British North America are the finest in the world. They are almost illimitable; and they are inexhaustible. The great variety and superior quality of the fish are as remarkable as the multitudes in which they are found; and supply a wealth that makes full amends for any rigor of climate or defects of soil on any of the coasts in their vicinity.

### FISHERY COLLECTIONS.

The sums actually collected during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1870, were:

<i>Ontario.</i> —Collections as fishery rents, license fees, fines and forfeitures.....	\$6,165 56
<i>Quebec.</i> —Collections as fishery rents, license fees, and fees on licenses to foreign fishing vessels, fines and forfeitures....	7,997 21
<i>Nova Scotia.</i> —Collections as fees on licenses to foreign fishing vessels, trap-net license fees, fines and forfeitures.....	1,373 24
<i>New Brunswick.</i> —Collections as fishing rents, taxes on salmon nets, licences to foreign fishing vessels, fines and forfeitures.....	1,086 42
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$16,622 43</b>

### EXPENDITURE.

The amount expended for the fisheries service, during the fiscal year, was \$43,263 30. This sum is apportioned as follows:

<i>Ontario.</i> —Overseers' salaries and disbursements, fish breeding, &c., &c., &c. \$	8,435 33
<i>Quebec.</i> —Overseers' salaries and disbursements, maintenance of <i>La Canadienne</i> , &c., &c.....	16,410 56
<i>New Brunswick.</i> —Overseers' salaries and disbursements, &c., &c.....	8,422 63
<i>Nova Scotia.</i> —Overseers' salaries and disbursements.....	9,994 78
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$43,263 30</b>

### MARINE POLICE CRUISERS.

After the discontinuance of annual licenses to foreign fishing vessels, the Fishery Department, under order in Council, fitted up and properly manned, six schooners to serve as Marine Police Cruisers. Very careful instructions were given to their commanders and they have proved of great service.

In the course of the season the commanders of these vessels have boarded about 400 American fishing vessels actually within a marine league of the coast.

The cost of maintaining this force is \$69,684.

The following is a list of the vessels seized and condemned by Canadian cruisers for violation of the Fishery and Revenue laws:—

*Wamptack*, Goodwin, Master, Plymouth, U. S., seized June 27th, 1870, a mile and a half from the shore, Aspy Bay, Cape Breton; caught actively fishing, tried at Halifax, condemned and sold at \$800.

*J. H. Nickerson*, MacDonald, Master, Salem, Mass., U. S., seized June, 30th, 1870, within three cables length of shore, in Ingonish Bay, N. S.; caught fishing after three previous warnings; tried at Halifax.

*Minnie*, Campbell, Master, Halifax, N. S., seized July 28th, 1870, for violating customs laws, fined \$800.

*Lettie*, Beerman, Master, McGowan, owner, P. E. Island, seized August 18th, 1870, in Gaspé Harbour, captured for fishing within prohibited limits; in course of litigation in New Brunswick.

*Lizzie A. Tarr*, Tarr Brothers, owners, Gloucester, Mass., U. S., seized August 27th 1870, 350 yards from shore in St. Margaret's Bay, P. Q.; caught actually fishing, tried at Quebec; condemned and sold for \$2,801.

*A. H. Wanson*, Webber, Master, Gloucester, Mass., U. S., seized Sept. 3rd 1870, within three miles of the shore of Cape Breton; caught actually fishing, condemned at Halifax and bailed to the amount of \$3,500; forfeited.

*H. W. Louis*, Watson, Master, Halifax, N. S., seized Sept. 17th 1870, at Henry Island, N. S. for violation of revenue laws; tried at Halifax; case pending.

*A. T. Franklin*, Nass, Master, Gloucester, Mass., U. S., seized October 15th 1870, within two miles of shore in Broad Cove, Cape Breton; caught fishing; tried at Halifax; condemned.

*Granada*, Payne, Master, Princeton, Massachusetts, U. S.; seized Oct. 25th 1870, at Port Hood, Cape Breton, N. S.; for viola-