

THE HEADLAND DISPUTE.

At the request of Great Britain this dispute has been left in abeyance in the belief that some fair trade arrangement would be arrived at between the United States and the Provinces. But the Canadian right is strongly maintained by Canada, and Mr. Mitchell shows strong reasons why it ought to be. He states the great distance to which the bays indent the mainland and the numerous coves and places of concealment along these deep indentations make it a matter of great difficulty and expense to watch and warn off intruders. These intruders can, he states, "so readily pass inside and outside of the boundary, all the time fishing and under easy sail, that the chances of detection and capture would be so remote as to amount almost to an impossibility. That foreign fishermen will and do trespass inside the three mile limit as often as they can do so with impunity, and frequently indeed in the very presence of cruisers, is well known. In fact, they cannot fish successfully without infringing our limits. Therefore to admit them within the headland lines is simply to improve their opportunities of trespassing on our property and interfering with our own fishermen. It is not in the true interest of peace that such should be the case, and certainly if at all, not without very large equivalents by way of compensation."

The Minister further contends "that these bays are the breeding and feeding grounds of the most precious of our northern fishes. The mouths of some of our finest rivers are connected with these spacious bays. These streams produce the food of the sea fishes, which are attracted thereby from the deeper waters outside into the shoaler estuaries. They resort also to the reefs and banks along shore to deposit their spawn. Wherever the food they are in search of abounds, and wherever they can find favorable grounds for spawning, there the schools of fish will resort incessantly. If the river fishings are depleted, or the estuaries overfished, and the fish are harassed on their breeding places, they will in course of time, forsake their favorite haunts altogether. Such has been the case on the eastern coasts of the American union, and the exhausted state of those fisheries is one of the principal causes of the eagerness of the United States fishermen to gain free access to ours. * * * Canada has for a few years past expended the public funds and supported an organized protection to preserve and restore her inland and estuary fishings. * * * British fishermen are doubly entitled to reap the benefits of their care and foresight. They ought not in fairness * * * be expected to waive, in favor of foreigners who have contributed nothing towards the outlay which has enriched their property, any such right as that of a headland boundary."

COST OF FISHERIES SERVICE.

The total amount expended by the Dominion on account of Marine and Fisheries' services for the year ended 30th June 1870, was \$408,150.31, against \$369,409.77 for the previous fiscal year ended 30th June, 1869. The increase on last year, as compared with the previous year, was owing to the employment of an armed Marine Police for the purpose of protecting our coast fisheries.

The following statement is compiled by the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

THE CATCH OF FISH.

GENERAL Recapitulation of the Yield of the Fisheries on the North and South Shores of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Quebec to Blanc Sablon, and from Point Levi to Bay des Chaleurs, during the year 1870.

Quantity and Value of Fish.	1870.
Summer Codfishing, 113,070 at.....\$ 3 00	\$ 339,210 00
Autumn Codfishing, 42,804 cwt. at..... 3 00	128,412 00
Ling, 71 barrels, at..... 5 00	355 00
Mackerel, 3,677 bbls., at.. 10 00	36,770 00
Herring, 26,389 barrels, at 3 00	79,167 00
Herring (smoked), 365 boxes, at..... 0 25	91 25
Sardines, 6,871 barrels, at 5 00	34,355 00
Halibut, 230 barrels, at.. 5 00	1,150 00
Salmon, 5,840 barrels, at 16 00	93,440 00
Trout, 143 barrels, at..... 10 00	1,430 00
Sturgeon, 219 barrels, at.. 5 00	1,095 00
Eels, 133,033 fish, at \$10 per cent.....	13,303 30
Cod, tongues, and sounds, 135 barrels, at..... 7 00	945 00
Cod Roes, 230 barrels, at 6 00	1,380 00
Seal Oil, 89,762 gallons, at 0 80	71,809 60
Whale Oil, 24,200 gallons, at..... 0 80	19,360 00
Porpoise Oil, 2,848 gal., at 0 60	1,708 80
Cod Oil, 119,093 gallons, at 0 50	59,546 50
Haddock, 1,327 barrels, at 5 00	6,634 00
Bar and Whitefish, 6,359, at \$2 per dozen.....	12,718 00
Mixed Fish, 551 bbls., at 4 00	2,204 00
Shad, 16,249 fish, at 10 cts. a piece.....	1,624 90
Fish used as manure, 32,490 barrels, at..... 0 25	8,122 50
Number of Porpoises 208, at..... 4 00	832 00
Number of Seals, 40,981 at..... 6 00	245,886 00
Total.....	\$1,161,550 85

Owing to the want of reliable statistics, the yield and value of the River and Inland Fisheries in those departments of the Province of Quebec, west of the City of Quebec, cannot be determined with any degree of accuracy; but the value per annum may be safely estimated at about \$100,000 for commerce and local consumption.

The value of fish product exported from the Magdalen Islands during the year 1870, is stated to be \$128,760. The value of seal product exported from the Magdalen Islands was \$18,545. This is exclusive of a considerable catch of fish by Magdalen Island vessels elsewhere.

The value of fish caught in the Province of Ontario is stated as follows:—

Divisions.	Value.
Lake Superior division: from head of Lake Superior to Thessalon River.....	\$40,066
Lake Huron and Georgian Bay division: from Thessalon River to Penetanguishene.....	40,065
Carried forward.....	\$80,131