

invariably be done, in order that "it may be generally known among maritime people that such services are highly appreciated by the Government of the country."

The total expenditure of the Marine

Branch for the year 1870-71 was \$532,323. The increased expenditure being due to the number of new Light Houses, &c., constructed, and the extensive repairs to the Dominion steamers.

Dominion Fisheries.

The Fisheries were generally in 1871 in a prosperous condition, and in most districts there was a steady improvement, both of sea-coast and inland Fisheries.

The actual value of Fisheries for trade purposes was \$7,573,200 00. The quantity used for domestic supply was estimated at \$300,000.

The amount of capital engaged was estimated at fifteen millions, and the number of persons employed at eighty-seven thousand.

Although the market prices of some kinds of fish was much lower than in 1870, the value of the fish taken, exceeded that of the preceding year by \$998,100. It is impossible to procure complete statistics, much of the fishing business being carried on in remote places, and large quantities of fish being sold in Prince Edward's Island for shipment to the United States. Probably 10 per cent. might be safely added for these.

The cod fish, mackerel, and herring fisheries, show a large increase in all three of the provinces of Nova Scotia, Quebec and New Brunswick.

There was a falling off in salmon, salmon trout, white fish, and in fish oils.

In the Province of Ontario, there were 1,959 men employed in the Fisheries, the value of the boats, nets, &c., is estimated at \$127,393. There were 23,560 barrels of fish taken, of which the total value was \$193,624, a considerable decrease on the preceding year.

In the Province of Quebec, the number of vessels and boats used was 4,349, and of men employed 8,393. 93,936 barrels of mackerel, herring and salmon were caught, and 204,986 quintals of cod fish, and the value of other fish and fish oils was \$221,205.

The shoals of herring at the Magdalen Islands were so thick that 6,000 barrels were caught in one haul of the seine, but the number of vessels which went there for the spring herring fishery was not so large as in 1870.

The seal fishing at these islands was almost a total failure.

Cod were very abundant, as were also the mackerel.

The harvest at the Magdalen Islands was one of the most bountiful ever seen. The land is exceedingly fertile and easy of cultivation, and some progress is being made in agriculture. Order and peace prevailed the whole season, even when the number of strangers was greatest.

On the Island of Anticosti, the number of persons settling for the purpose of fishing is increasing every year. The herring fishery is always abundant, but the dangers of the navigation at that season of the year, keep away fishermen. Cod fish was most abundant, but there was a want of fine weather for drying it. There was only a small quantity of salmon caught; halibut is found in large quantities, but is mostly fished for by foreign vessels.

Both herring and cod were in very great abundance in the Gaspé and Bonaventure districts. Mackerel fishing is not much pursued. The salmon fishery was not nearly as productive as in 1870, owing to the sudden melting of the snow, following a late spring. Lobsters were very abundant, and this fishery employs a large number of hands. The value of the fish exported from the Port of Gaspé in 1871 was \$673,959, and from New Carlisle, \$295,634.

On the coast of Labrador, the fall seal fishing failed to a considerable extent, but that of the spring was more successful, 8,835 seals in all were obtained. Cod fish were very abundant, and mackerel, which had disappeared for 40 years, returned in as great abundance as ever. This coast is so much frequented now by fishing vessels and traders, that goods and provisions are as cheap as in the cities, and some things can even be purchased cheaper than in Quebec. The population is increasing, the houses are neat and comfortable, and there is a noticeable appearance of prosperity. The whole fishery was better than that of previous years. Halibut were in large numbers, but the fishery is not pursued to any extent. The salmon fishing fell off one half, owing to the freshets in the rivers.

Great complaint is made of the destruction of wild fowl of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, by the robbing of eggs, which is causing a noticeable decrease in the number of birds.

The value of the inland and river fisheries of the Province cannot be estimated with accuracy, but will probably be worth \$100,000 per annum. The yield is reported as improving, and the fishery laws are generally well observed.

In New Brunswick, there were 5,161 men employed in the fisheries, and the value of the fish caught was \$1,185,033. A large quantity of salmon was taken. The cod and mackerel were in small quantity. Herrings and smelts were plentiful, and there is a rapidly increasing business done in preserving lobsters. Trout fishing is reported as increasing rapidly. Large quantities of bass were exported frozen to the United States. The haddock fishing has increased.

There is great dissatisfaction over the destruction of oyster beds.

In Nova Scotia, there was a very large increase in the quantities of almost all kinds of fish. 20,313 men were engaged in the fisheries, and the total value of fish and oil was \$5,101,030.

The salmon rivers are being rapidly restored, and the salmon were more plentiful than for some years past.

The Bay of Fundy Fishery succeeded beyond all calculation. More attention is being paid to the hake fishery, and it promises to become a great source of wealth.

The collections from Fishing Rents, License Fees, Fines, &c., for 1871 amounted to \$12,409, and the expenditure of the Branch was \$42,592.