

The total expenditure of the Department for the fiscal year was:—

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| In Ontario - - - - - | \$11,745.85 |
| In Quebec (including expense of <i>La Canadienne</i> schooner) | 23,458.14 |
| In New Brunswick - - | 14,038.95 |
| In Nova Scotia - - - | 10,902.63 |
| Total | \$60,145.57 |

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| In Prince Edward Island for contingent expenses | 405.62 |
| Marine Police - - - | 15,364.69 |
| Total | \$78,910.88 |

The Collections amounted to:—

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| Ontario - - - - - | \$1,886.75 |
| Quebec - - - - - | 853.45 |
| New Brunswick - - - | 978.60 |
| Nova Scotia - - - - | 123.94 |
| Total - - - - - | \$3,842.74 |

The collections exceed by nearly \$3,800 those of the previous year; and the number of stations leased for 1875 is still greater than for 1874. There are now altogether 488 fishery officers employed in the outside service. Considerable progress has been made in defining the close seasons for various kinds of fish, and in setting apart waters for the culture of fish. A marked increase takes place in the production of the waters set apart at different seasons. There are vast inland water districts in the districts of Central Canada, abounding in edible fish, which it is desirable to protect. Persons resorting to them have been required to provide themselves with season licenses at nominal rates, such licenses prescribing the modes and times in which fishing is allowed in the respective localities, with due regard to the protection of breeding fish.

The Government schooner *La Canadienne* cruised as usual in the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence during the season of 1874 to protect the fisheries. The season was late, and the vessel only arrived at Gaspé Basin on the 4th June, when the salmon fishing was just beginning. She was engaged over five months in the cruise, visiting the Magdalen Islands twice, the North Shore and Labrador Coast three times, stopping at the Island of Anticosti and the Baie des Chateaux the same number of times. No accident occurred, and a spirit of order and tranquillity was found everywhere on the coasts. Among so large a number of fishermen of all creeds and nationalities, no disturbance of the peace took place. The population of the North Shore is slowly but steadily increasing. Comparatively few American vessels visited the shores of the Gulf, and not a single French vessel. The fisheries of British Columbia are beginning to be important, especially in regard to the canning of fresh salmon. There were in 1874 four establishments on the Fraser, and others were to be opened in 1875. The proceeds from these were 18,819 cases of fresh

salmon, each case containing 48 lb. tins, and 2,674 barrels of salt salmon. A large quantity of oil is also manufactured from the dog-fish. Whale fishing appears to have been given up, from the want of necessary capital and appliances; but during the autumn months the Gulf of Georgia appears to be alive with whales, though of a smaller size than those generally seen in the ocean.

FISH HATCHING.

Five fish-hatching establishments are now in successful operation in the Dominion viz. Newcastle, Ont.; Tadoussac and Gaspe, Quebec; and Restigouche and Newcastle, N. B. The quantity of eggs laid down in these in 1874 exceeded 4,000,000. Other similar establishments are proposed to be established. At Newcastle immense numbers of salmon hatched there, and grown to maturity in Lake Ontario, returned to spawn, and ran in below the house. Half a million of young salmon, trout, and white fish, hatched in 1873, were distributed in several of the rivers of Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. Those placed in 1872 in Salmon River, on the Lower Ottawa, were found to have done well. Between three and four millions of young fish were distributed in the streams of the different Provinces in 1875. About 20,000 eggs of California salmon were deposited in the Newcastle establishment, and have hatched out fish that are promising well. Specimens of British Columbia salmon have been received from the Pacific Coast in good condition; and considering their immense numbers, a lucrative winter trade might probably be carried on with Canadian and American markets. Fish ways have been built in River Cocagne, Kent County, Salmon River, Albert County, and on the Meduxnakik Dam, Carleton County, N. B. Also on La Have River, Lunenburg County; Musquodoboit, Salmon and Indian rivers, Halifax County; Port Medway River, Queen's County; Tuskent River, Yarmouth County Nova Scotia; on Salmon River, Hastings County; Morin River, at Thurlow; eleven on the River Thames, and three on the Grand River, Ontario. New fish ways were also built on the River à Mars, a branch of the Saguenay, and at Matane River, South Shore, St. Lawrence, in Quebec. Obstructions have been removed in Salmon River N. B., and in Gola Petite, River Lier, and Kyles Brook, N. S. For want of a proper vessel, the investigations respecting food fishes were not pursued in 1874. As for the oyster supply, the beds are so exhausted that nothing but partial closure and active cultivation can restore them. In artificial fish culture the chief difficulty met is a want of skilled labour; and it is recommended that some encouragement should be given to persons willing to learn the process, and special efforts made to instruct all fishery officers. The license system adopted in Ontario and Quebec has been introduced with good effect into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and with beneficial effect. The seal fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence is threatened with extinction. Some joint commission to regulate a close time, and prevent the wholesale slaughter now carried on, seems necessary.