

Fisheries of the Dominion.

The following statements are taken from the last report of Department of Marine and Fisheries—

There was a slight falling off in the total product of the Fisheries for 1875 as compared with the preceding year. The difference was principally observable in the yield of salmon and lobsters. The total value of fish products in 1875, not including the fisheries of British Columbia, Manitoba and the North West Territories, was \$10,247,886. Fish and fish oils to the value of \$184,723 are given in the Trade Returns, as having been exported from these provinces, making the total product \$10,432,609. But the value of the fish consumed at home in these Provinces is estimated to be at least double that of the export, so that the total product may be fairly estimated at \$10,752,063. The value of the fishery from each Province was:—

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| P. E. Island | \$ 288,827 |
| Nova Scotia | 5,578,852 |
| New Brunswick | 2,427,654 |
| Quebec | 1,694,270 |
| Ontario | 453,194 |
| Manitoba and B. Columbia | 404,150 |
| Total | \$10,752,063 |

The Province of Ontario was the only one showing an increase, principally in Whitefish and Pickeral. The condition of the fisheries was altogether satisfactory, and the fishing population, as a whole, reasonably prosperous. With vigilance against improper methods of fishing by foreign fishermen admitted to our waters, a yearly increasing yield may be expected. The fish exported during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1875, amounted to \$5,380,527, and for the concluding six months of 1875 to \$3,502,748. The imports during the same periods were \$330,129, and \$301,918. These figures show a considerable decrease in the imports and increase in the exports over those of 1874,—they being, imports \$925,692 and exports \$5,282,368; of the fish exported during the months from June to Dec., 1875, the largest customer was the United States. The value exported being \$384,757

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| To Great Britain | \$040,517 |
| British West Indies | 611,352 |
| Spanish do | 328,019 |
| French do | 182,408 |
| Danish do | 29,310 |
| Haiti | 68,670 |
| B. Guiana | 129,739 |
| S. America | 245,882 |
| Italy | 183,287 |
| N. Zealand and Australia | 23,564 |

and several other countries smaller values.

It may be noticed, however, that the total exports to the West Indies, including British Guiana, amounted to \$1,348,998, and also that the imports of fish from the U. S. free of duty amounted to \$219,387.

EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS.

The expenditure for the Fishery Branch during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1875, was \$90,258, and the collections \$14,764. For the six months from July to December, 1875, the expenses were \$70,658, and the receipts \$8,931. The expenditure may be divided into three branches.

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| Fishery Overseers, salaries and disbursements | \$25,887 |
| Fisheries protection, N.S. | 10,000 |
| Fish breeding establishments | 30,271 |
| Total | \$66,258 |

The collections are from rents, license fees, fines, forfeitures, and taxes on nets. There was a slight falling off in the last six months, owing to the reduced rate charged for licenses for salmon fishing, that industry being in a depressed condition. 1,126 fishery licenses were issued, viz:—

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| Ontario | 497 |
| Quebec | 391 |
| New Brunswick | 38 |
| Total | 1,126 |

The number of officers now employed in the outside fishery service is 523, of which 72 are in Ontario, 66 in Quebec, 217 in Nova Scotia, 90 in New Brunswick, all of whom are *ex officio* magistrates, 18 overseers and water bailiffs in P. E. Island, 1 overseer in Manitoba and the commissioner and crew of the fisheries protection steamer, 24. This regular staff is assisted when necessary by the lock masters, lighthouse keepers and Dominion Police. There is an inspector for each of the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The total sum from leases of angling privileges was \$4,885; 2,780 fish were caught by the private persons having these privileges. The Fisheries Act having been extended to P. E. Island, it is proposed to organize a local staff of overseers, &c., to enforce it. It is advisable to extend it also to Manitoba, where settlement is extending so rapidly. The money value of the fish taken in that Province in 1875 is estimated at \$27,920. It is also advisable to extend the provisions of the Act to British Columbia, whose fisheries bid fair to rival those of the Maritime Provinces at the East.

Frequent attempts have been made by the Department at Ottawa to bring about some international code of local regulations, respecting the fisheries on the shores of the great lakes. At present the fishing on the American shores is unrestricted and destructive, and Canadian fishermen to a great extent lose the benefit of the improvements brought about by the restrictions of our Fishery Laws. So far, no action has been taken by the U. S. authorities on the subject.