

508. As compared with 1888 there was an increase in the total value of \$236,746, the large decrease of \$1,470,309 in Nova Scotia being counterbalanced by the equally large increase of \$1,445,873 in British Columbia. There were also increases in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario aggregating \$274,180, making a total increase of \$1,720,053, against a total decrease of \$1,483,307, leaving the net increase, as stated, of \$236,746. The decrease in Nova Scotia was largely attributed to the use of purse seines and to the scarcity of bait. The mackerel catch generally was a small one, and in Quebec a complete failure. There was a general increase in lobsters, smelts and oysters, the improvement in the smelt fishery being a very decided one. The large increase in British Columbia was principally caused by the unprecedented run of salmon in the Fraser River, the total pack of canned salmon having reached the enormous quantity of 20,122,128 1-lb. tins, being an increase of 11,288,184 lbs. over that of 1888, and of this increase the Fraser River contributed 11,112,288 lbs., and the Inspector says that sufficient fish ascended the river to pack 15,000,000 lbs. in addition, had there been sufficient appliances. It is not, however, expected that such a large catch can be maintained, and the number of licenses has been limited to 500, 350 on the Fraser River and 150 to local fishermen. There were 28 canneries in operation, 16 on the Fraser River and 12 on the coast (Naas and Skeena Rivers), and the pack was 14,789,856 lbs. on the Fraser River and 5,332,272 lbs. on the coast. Since 1876, when canning operations first commenced, 2,160,763 cases or 103,716,624 lbs. of salmon have been packed in British Columbia.

Particulars of the yield in 1889.

Salmon in British Columbia.