

676. The yield of the fisheries in 1892 was more than four times as much as it was in 1869, but the exports were not quite three times as much as in 1868, showing that a very much larger quantity proportionately is now taken for home consumption, owing presumably to greater facilities of transportation and large increase in interprovincial trade. The proportion of exports to total value in 1869 was 74 per cent, and in 1892 51 per cent. Increase during the period.

677. Though the table shows that there has been a considerable increase during the period, yet that increase would have been much larger, but for the decline in the catch of some of the principal kinds of fish. In the catch of mackerel, for instance, there has been a most alarming decrease, as the following figures show :— Decrease in catch of mackerel.

CATCH OF MACKEREL, 1850-1889.

YEARS.	Total Catch.	Annual Average.	No. 1 Quality.	Annual Average.
	Brls.	Brls.	Brls.	Brls.
1850-59.....	1,864,915	185,491	682,637	68,263
1863-72.....	2,454,265	245,426	1,007,345	100,734
1880-89.....	1,618,603	161,860	198,322	19,822

Comparing the catch of the later decade with the aid of its perfected and destructive fishing engines, with that of the first decade, with its primitive modes of capture, it will be seen that there was an annual average decline in the total catch of mackerel of 23,631 barrels, and in the catch of No. 1 grade of 48,441 barrels. The bass fishery in the St. John and Miramichi rivers, and the sturgeon fishery in the St. John river, have also dwindled down to very insignificant proportions.

678. In addition to the above, large quantities of fish are annually consumed by the Indians, particularly in the North-west and British Columbia, of which no account can be obtained. For the twelve years, 1879-1892, the value of the fish consumed by Indians in British Columbia has been estimated at over \$51,000,000. Indian consumption of fish

679. The next table gives the value of the yield by provinces in each year since 1869. The Province of Nova Scotia has produced during the period 46 per cent, or nearly one-half of the total yield ; New Brunswick, 20 per cent, and Quebec 13 per cent, the three provinces having yielded nearly 80 per cent of the total. The fishing industry in British Columbia is yet quite in its infancy, but the opportunities for its development are advantageous, and the deep-sea fisheries of the province are said to be unsurpassed in wealth and variety. Value of fisheries by provinces, 1869-1892.