

In addition to the 847,993,200 fry distributed from the hatcheries in Ontario, there are large numbers of semi-hatched ova of various kinds annually transferred from the Newcastle establishment to the Eastern Province Hatcheries, as well as a large quantity of eyed eggs from the Sandwich nursery to other hatcheries. The Selkirk Hatchery in Manitoba laid down many millions of whitefish eggs the past autumn.

552. The report of the department for 1893 contains a paper on "A Marine Scientific Station for Canada." In this paper Professor Prince, Commissioner of Fisheries, advocates the establishment of an institution devoted to the accurate investigation of fishery problems, the elucidation and final settlement of perplexing questions which have baffled practical men, the collection of exact observations on the food, habits and life-history of fishes, and the accumulation, in this way, of useful scientific knowledge, in order to promote the prosperity of our coast and inland fisheries. Such a station would do much to place in the possession of the department information on the comparative efficiency, destructiveness and wastefulness of various methods of fishing. The investigation of the resources of the various areas along the lengthy coast of the Dominion, the thorough examination of extensive regions of the sea-bottom and the determination of fishes and special products peculiar to these various regions, are calculated to put into the fisherman's hands precisely the information which will be most valuable to him. The introduction of the European sole is one of the first experiments which would suggest itself. No doubt, many sandy areas on the coast of Canada are well adapted for the experiment, and the English sole is now one of the most valuable of good fishes.

There is every probability that the thorough and systematic investigation of the fauna of our Atlantic coast, carried on from such a marine station, would lead to the discovery of fishes of economic value at present existing in our waters, though unrecognized and unappreciated.

Methods of preserving and transporting fish, improved means of drying, salting, canning and refrigeration could be thoroughly tested.

553. The sealing fleet of Canada pursued its avocation at a disadvantage during the season of 1893, in consequence of the continued closure of Behring Sea on the American side, pending the result of arbitration. The total catch amounted to 70,092 seals, of which number 28,809 were caught off the British Col-