

burg was reported in 1893 as taking upwards of 9,000 barrels of this fish ; the year just ended (1894) exhibits an almost total failure."

The Overseer at the Magdalen Islands says:—

"The fall mackerel fishery was satisfactory in general though it failed completely in Pheasant Bay and about Entry Island. The failure here is held by the fishermen to be due to the constant use of seines by the Americans and enormous fleets of gill-nets by the vessels from Nova Scotia."

The Overseer at Port Hood thinks the decrease is to be attributed to over-fishing by purse-seines in former years.

The Overseer at Mabou reports that the mackerel fishing exhibits the usual poor results. "The fishermen have become so discouraged that little or no attention is likely to be given to this branch of industry in the future."

The Overseer of St. Peter's reports "the mackerel fishing was almost a failure. None of the fishermen can give reasons for the scarcity of these fish during the past two years."

The Overseer of Aspey Bay reports "an increase of 455 barrels in the catch of mackerel in his district over the previous year." This increase he attributes "to the abundance of the fish in the inshore waters caused by the absence of purse-seining. The mackerel fishing would have been much better had it not been for the presence of dog-fish which are so destructive to gill nets."

One of the Overseers directs attention to a letter received from a prominent fish importing firm of Boston ; "It has seemed to us that during the past two years there has been more damage to lots of mackerel that have been received from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island from stain-rust than we have known before, and from close observation there is no doubt in our minds that the cause is chiefly owing to too little salt being used in the packing. \* \* \* Something should be done to cause your fishermen and packers to change their careless handling. Better colour of fish by more careful soaking, full weights, better barrels that will hold pickle, and a more uniform inspection are some of the requirements that are necessary. If a reform is not brought about the prejudice that acquired so strong a hold last season will become permanent, greatly to the injury of the trade you have in this kind of fish."

It appears from these statements that some of the causes of the decrease in the value of the catch are remediable by International action and some by greater care on the part of our fishermen.

792. The following tables give the value of the yearly yield of the fisheries by provinces since Confederation :—