

In addition to the 893,922,200 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.

800. 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.

801. The following are statistics of the sealing fleet of Canada for the season of 1894, with those for 1893 added for purposes of comparison:—

	1894.	1893.
Total catch.....	95,048	70,592
Distributed thus:—		
British Columbia coast .....	11,703	28,809
Japanese coast.....	*49,483	29,270
Copper Island coast.....	7,437	12,513
Behring Sea.....	†26,425	.....
Fleet, No. of vessels.....	59 (3,866 tons)	55 (3,743 tons)
Boats .....	266	250
Canoes.....	259	204
Crews, white.....	888	847
“ Indians.....	518	432
Value fur seal skins.....	‡\$948,490	§\$841,104

\* Including 490 landed at Victoria by United States schooners.

† " 84 " " " "

‡ Including \$3,750 value of fur seal skins landed at Victoria by United States schooners.

§ Including \$3,120.