

617. Taking the fishing area covered by the fishing bounties the following comparative statement is made up :—

FISHERMEN IN BOUNTY-PAID WATERS.

PROVINCES.	1881.		1894.	
	In Vessels.	In Boats.	In Vessels.	In Boats.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Quebec.....	951	9,060	409	9,405
Nova Scotia.....	6,004	21,522	5,907	19,571
New Brunswick.....	1,174	7,563	819	10,831
Prince Edward Island.....	76	3,559	151	3,178
Totals.....	8,205	41,704	7,286	42,985

618. These tables show, 1st., that during the years immediately preceding the passing of the Act relating to the bounty there had been a decrease in the number of the fishermen—those engaged in fishing from vessels showing a decrease in 1881 as compared with 1879 of 459, and those engaged in boat-fishing showing a decrease of 1,880—a total decrease of 2,339.

2nd. That both vessel and boat-fishing began to employ a larger number of men after 1881.

3rd. That during 1883-84-85 vessels fishing employed 15·8 per cent of the total number of fishermen, and 1894, 13·4 per cent, showing that boat-fishing is absorbing a large number of the fishermen.

4th. That the increase in the total number of fishermen since 1881 has been 11,663, or 19·7 per cent.

5th. That while the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario, Manitoba and the North-west Territories and New Brunswick have increased the number of their fishermen in 1894 compared with 1881, the provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec have decreased their number. Nova Scotia by 2,048, Quebec by 1,576, and Prince Edward Island by 306, the increases and decreases being as under :—

PROVINCES.	Increases.	Decreases.
Prince Edward Island.....		306
British Columbia.....	9,757	
Manitoba and North-west Territories.....	1,376	
Ontario.....	1,547	
New Brunswick.....	2,913	
Nova Scotia.....		2,048
Quebec.....		1,576
Totals.....	15,593	3,930