

progeny of the eastern breed had been taken in the vicinity of San Francisco, but careful investigation failed to substantiate these reports. It is understood that the experiment of taking another supply of live lobsters to the Pacific will be repeated during the season of 1888 by the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries.

An efficient staff of guardians was located on the principal rivers and in localities where most needed during the salmon fishing season; but no violations of the law were reported.

#### QUEBEC.

The total value of the fisheries in this Province shows an increase of \$32,185 over 1887. The weather being favorable for the salmon fishing, the catch considerably improved and the total shows an increase of 142,896 pounds. No material difference is noticeable in the cod fishery. The catch of lobsters exhibits a steady decline, in spite of new grounds being worked at Magdalen Islands with twenty-four canneries this season against one in 1870. Mackerel were again scarce, while herring were abundant; the value of the latter was, however, small, most of the fish being used for lobster bait and manure.

#### ONTARIO.

The steady increase in the yield and value of the fisheries of this Province abundantly shows what judicious protection and a strict observance of the fishery laws will effect in the direction of increasing the fish supply. Last year's returns placed the total value of the fisheries of Ontario at \$1,435,993, while this year's show it to be \$1,531,849, an increase of \$95,851, thus conclusively proving that the general condition and increasing productiveness of the fisheries is most satisfactory. Whitefish and salmon trout which are the staple fishing industry of this Province continue to increase, showing that, the dates fixed upon to protect these fish during the breeding period are the proper ones.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

It is much to be regretted that the remarks made on the prosperous condition of the fisheries of the Province of Ontario cannot be applied to those of Prince Edward Island, but it would be difficult to do so in the face of a deficit of \$104,565. This is mainly to be ascribed to a falling off in the lobster fishery; a result long expected from over-fishing and constant opposition to all measures of restriction. With such a decline of the lobster fishery and the depreciation of the Prince Edward Island article on the English markets, it is to be apprehended that this branch of national industry which, if properly husbanded, would have continued for many years to yield remunerative results will, for a long time, lead a struggling life, and perhaps be unable to resume its former prosperous state. The catch