

to the person who for the first time visits this region, would have too little general importance to deserve mention. In order to render the notes more complete, an account of the salmon industry for the year 1894 is presented, although the season was only half over at the time of the writer's visit. The information for the latter part of the season has been obtained chiefly by correspondence. The detailed tabular matter here offered is in all cases drawn from the books of canners or fishermen, and may be accepted as accurate.

The salmon fishery and canning industry in 1893.—The fishing season of 1893 on the Columbia River was noteworthy for two reasons—the loss of life among the fishermen of the lower river was never greater; the pack of chinook salmon was the smallest in twenty years, that is, since 1873; and the general pack was less than in any previous year since 1874, with the exception of 1887 and 1889.

Much of the loss of life among the gill-net fishermen in the past has been due to gross carelessness or foolhardiness on the part of the men in venturing too near the bar at the mouth of the river in the hope of taking the fish when they first leave the ocean. It is said, however, that the disastrous death rate in 1893 was in large part unavoidable, and was due to the occurrence of sudden gales, which took the boats unawares. In the early part of June gales resulted in the death of 34 men, and by the close of the season the loss of lives reached 54, about 40 of the men being married. The money losses in boats and gear aggregated nearly \$20,000.

In the early part of May the canners acceded to the demands of the gill-net fishermen's union for a price of 5 cents a pound for chinook salmon instead of the uniform rate of \$1 per fish which had formerly prevailed. Reference to tables of averages elsewhere given will show that the average weight of chinooks taken with gill nets in 1893 was 22.86 pounds, so that the prices received amounted to an advance over 1892 of 14 cents on each fish sold; on this basis the fishermen must have been benefited by the change to the amount of fully \$75,000.

Fishing with all forms of apparatus in the lower river was less satisfactory than in the previous year. The average catch of salmon by gill nets was more than 100 less to a boat than in 1892, the figures given being 450 against 565. The traps were scarcely half as successful as in the previous season, being injured by storms and freshets and being shunned to a considerable extent by the large runs of fish, owing, as some suppose, to a shallowing of the water by the accumulations of sand and sediment caused by the thousands of stakes. Seine fishing began later than usual and was unsuccessful generally. The run of chinooks in August was very large, and is said to have obviated what would otherwise have been a somewhat disastrous season to the packers. While May was the best month for gill nets and July for pound nets, the catch of both these forms of apparatus in August was large. The run during the whole of the open season in August was reported to be extraordinarily heavy, and when the season closed there was still an enormous body of fish passing up the river. The total pack to August 10 was reported to be about 365,000 cases, of which about 290,000 cases were chinooks. Compared with the pack of the year 1883, ten years previously, when only chinook salmon were canned, the decrease in chinooks was 58 per cent and in the total pack was 45 per cent.