

About 1,000 decked vessels, and 17,000 open boats are computed to be engaged in the fishing business, with about 42,000 men. 200,000 souls in the different fishing communities are mostly supported by this industry.

The latest official return places the value of the yield of 1872 as \$9,570,113. This is exclusive of Manitoba and British Columbia, and shows an increase of more than 33 per cent. in two years.

The area of the inland waters of the Dominion is computed by the Census Returns to be:

In Ontario	3,881,729 acres.
In Quebec	3,725,178 "
In New Brunswick	98,870 "
In Nova Scotia	525,600 "
Total	8,231,375 "

The lineal extent of sea-coast is:

	Statute Miles.
For Quebec	1,164
For New Brunswick	545
For Nova Scotia	1,170
Total	2,859

The area of the Ontario part of the St. Lawrence and great lakes may be calculated at 27,094 miles.

	Square Miles.
Of the mouth of the St. Lawrence from Point des Monts to Anticosti	9,201
Of the Gulf	78,800
Basin des Chaleurs	1,923
Bay of Fundy	5,408
Total	121,921

During the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1872, the receipts for rents, license fees, fines, confiscations, forfeitures, and taxes on nets, were:

For Ontario	\$4,818 57
For Quebec	4,569 69
For Nova Scotia	166 85
For New Brunswick	942 89
Total	\$10,498 00

The expenditure for Fishery overseers, salaries and disbursements, fish breeding, and expenses of La Canadienne was

For Ontario	\$8,364 29
For Quebec	19,537 68
For Nova Scotia	8,709 51
For New Brunswick	7,072 32
Total	\$43,683 80

The United States Congress not having passed the necessary measures to carry into effect the Fishery Articles of the Treaty of Washington, the Marine Police Force was required to be maintained in active service. Two steamers and 6 schooners were employed under the general command of Capt. P. A. Scott, R. N. Their instructions were the same as last year. Only two United States fishing vessels found trespassing were captured. They were brought to Quebec, and subsequently released under bonds. These vessels were engaged in halibut fish-

ing. This fishery being likely to largely increase, some regulations and restrictions seem necessary, as the system generally practised is very destructive.

The sum of \$40,173 was expended in the maintenance of the Marine Police, including the purchase and outfit of the condemned American fishing schooner, *J. H. Nickerson*, but not including the maintenance of the *Lady Head* steamer, which is included in the appropriation for Dominion steamers.

In order to protect the fish in the inland waters, and prevent illicit operations being carried on in remote places with impunity, Fishery Officers have been placed at proper places to intercept the illegal carriage and exportation of fish during prohibited seasons.

Steps have been taken to enlarge the natural breeding capacities of several salmon rivers, by removing obstructions, and making falls passable.

The value of the annual consumption of oysters in Canada is valued at \$10,000. Of this only \$43,000 worth are produced in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, mostly from the latter Province. There is no reason why this industry should not be very much extended. The Canadian oyster grounds are very extensive, and the localities admirably adapted for the cultivation of oysters. For delicacy of flavour and nutritive properties, the Canadian oyster is not excelled by the choicest U. S. oyster. They might be raised in enormous quantities, if the natural facilities were enhanced by artificial aids.

Several applications have been made, for the lease of oyster beds for the cultivation of oysters, and the entire prohibition of the oyster fishery for three years is proposed to be carried into effect.

After the distribution of a large part of the last year's hatch of salmon fry in different streams, and putting a considerable number into Lake Ontario from the establishment at Newcastle, Ontario, 2,000,000 of fish eggs, (salmon, salmon trout, white fish and brook trout) were gathered during the autumn, and deposited in the hatching troughs by Mr. Wilmot. 350,000 salmon fry and 750,000 of other fish were to be distributed during the summer of 1873. Salmon are now found in nearly all the streams between the Bay of Quinte, and the mouth of the Niagara, and many of these streams in the autumn of 1872 were crowded with breeding fish.

Arrangements have been made with the lessees of the Restigouche river and its feeders for maintaining a fish-hatching establishment on that river. Other establishments are proposed at Tadoussac and Gaspé Basin, and one for the artificial production of bait for deep-sea fishing on the coast of Nova Scotia. The example of the Government is stimulating private enterprise, and the country may look forward to a plentiful supply of fish-food, which, while it gives employment to labour, will make living in Canada even cheaper than it now is.

The statements of the Fishery Officers in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, give proof of the utility of Fish Ways. In many streams whose waters had been nearly deserted, fish are again plentiful. Over 100 fish passes have been constructed in these two Provinces, and above 80 in Quebec and Ontario, at a total cost of \$21,384, an insignificant sum when compared to the advantages derived from them.