

NEWFOUND-
LAND.
1892.
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unofficial, I have obtained sufficient reliable information to be able to announce a successful result generally. The catch for some of the fisheries, though quite up to the average, was below that of last year, while others, notably the seal and shore cod fishery, were remarkably productive. With the exception of the lobster and Bank fishery the several branches of this industry were carried on more extensively than at any period during the last decade. A reason for this increased vigour can possibly be found in the excellent result of last year's operations, which doubtless induced our business people to provide a larger outfit. Dealing with each branch of the fishery separately, and entering somewhat more into details, I find that the result of the seal fishery for 1892 is valued as follows:—

				\$
5,301 tons of oil -	-	-	-	397,575.00
390,174 seal skins	-	-	-	468,209.00
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Total	-	-	-	865,784.00
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as against the following for 1891—

				\$
4,478 tons of oil -	-	-	-	} 780,807.00
364,981 seal skins	-	-	-	
an increase of	-	-	-	84,977.00

Taken as a whole the cod fishery was, in its several branches, superior in its yield to that of last year. The full returns of the Shore and Labrador fisheries are not available but, as I have stated above, the information received from extraneous sources shows that the Shore catch was much above the average whilst that of the Labrador was slightly below. The Bank catch was exceedingly good for the smaller fleet engaged; the take per man being 65 qtls. as against 40 in 1891.

The pickled fish industry was very unsuccessful in all its branches. The catch of salmon was very small and the prices realised were low. The Shore and Labrador herring fishery was unfortunately one of the worst on record. The latter, which was, until the last three years, one of the most profitable and successful of our fisheries, appears to have failed entirely; the limited quantity of herring which now visit the shores of that dependency are both smaller in size and poorer in quality than in former years, indeed it may be said that the once famous "Labrador" herring has, during the last two or three years, entirely disappeared from its shores. It is to be hoped that this valuable fish will shortly return to Labrador waters and, unlike the mackerel, once very plentiful, but now rarely seen on our coasts, that it will provide our fishermen for many years to come with the means of supplementing, very largely, their earnings at the cod fishery.