

TRADE AND COMMERCE OF

THE FISHERIES.

A Sub-Committee of the Council has been engaged in compiling statistics and preparing suggestions on that most valuable portion of our maritime trade. They recommend, amongst other matters, that an act should be immediately passed for the compulsory inspection of fish and oil, to apply to the whole Dominion, and that a more effective plan be adopted for securing complete and reliable returns of the catch and cure of fish, the manufacture of oil, the number of vessels, men, and amount of capital engaged in the trade, and the exports to foreign countries. The reports of the late Commander of *La Canadienne*, Doctor Fortin, are ably compiled, and afford a large amount of valuable information; but owing to the vast extent of coast which borders our fishing grounds, and the slow mode of travel afforded by a small sailing schooner, in visiting it, the returns must necessarily be imperfect. It will perhaps be advisable, therefore, to urge on the Government the necessity of employing steam communication for the fishing service, instead of sail.

THE MIRAMICHI RIVER.

A large trade is done between Quebec and Montreal and this important New Brunswick river, and as the entrance to it is somewhat difficult, owing to the existence of a large bar at its entrance, and the circuitous course of the channel from its mouth to the harbor of Chatham, your Council have asked the Government, through the Minister of Marine, to place additional lights and buoys on that river.

PILOTS' CORPORATION.

The Council having expressed to the Dominion Government their opinion of the working of the Act incorporating this body, and suggested several changes, to ensure efficiency in the Pilot service, the Trinity House were ordered to institute an investigation into the management of the Corporation, and have concluded their labors. The mercantile community generally, and a number of Pilots, are dissatisfied with the system in force, and heartily desire the repeal of the Act of Incorporation.

LAND COMMUNICATION WITH GASPE.

The Council had the pleasure of an interview with Dr. Fortin, M. P., for Gaspé, on the subject of a road on the South Shore, from St. Anne des Monts to Fox River. Convinced of the great necessity of this road, your Council have petitioned Parliament to aid its construction by a grant of money from the funds of the Dominion.

THE TARIFF.

A special committee of the Board, composed of those engaged in the Grocery and Liquor Trade, was named by the Council to suggest what changes should be made in the Tariff, with a view to more permanent legislation. The report of that committee having been approved of by the

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