

once to \$632,400 in that year, and reached no less a figure than \$1,265,700 in 1856. It then gradually declined to \$416,000 in 1860. When the rebellion commenced the war navy of the States needed and obtained the services of many fishing vessels and their crews, and the value of the fish taken fell to \$250,000 annually; but there is little doubt that, now their country no longer needs their services, the fishermen, if allowed, will again come north in the same numbers as before (a). It was at one time feared that the influx of American fishing vessels would seriously injure the fisheries, and deprive the fishermen of the Provinces of their means of support. This apprehension has not been realized to any great extent; and any injury that may have resulted in this respect has been more than counterbalanced by the increased energy which the competition of the Americans has taught their cousins to employ (b). As a proof it may be mentioned that the value of the fish taken by Nova Scotians and New Brunswickers, which was \$2,110,750 in 1850, reached no less a figure than \$2,950,235 in 1860 (c).

The fisheries of the lakes cannot compare in value with those of

(a) Statement of the number of American vessels engaged in the fisheries of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in Canadian waters, &c., &c. :—

| No. of Vessels. | Tonnage. | No. of Crew. | Value of Fish taken. |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1852.....260    | 18,200   | 3,400        | \$ 294,000           |
| 1853.....220    | 15,400   | 3,000        | 276,000              |
| 1854.....234    | 16,380   | 3,220        | 280,800              |
| 1855.....334    | 23,380   | 3,580        | 632,400              |
| 1856.....476    | 36,320   | 6,600        | 1,265,700            |
| 1857.....452    | 31,640   | 6,240        | 1,053,000            |
| 1858.....453    | 31,710   | 6,170        | 634,500              |
| 1859.....380    | 26,600   | 5,160        | 528,000              |
| 1860.....370    | 25,900   | 4,980        | 459,000              |
| 1861.....356    | 24,920   | 4,840        | 416,400              |
| 1862.....274    | 19,180   | 3,740        | 267,000              |
| 1863.....235    | 16,450   | 3,230        | 249,750              |

Return compiled by Mr. Whitcher, Fisheries Branch, Crown Lands Department, 27th June, 1864.

(b) *Vide* speech of Hon. Charles Fisher, of New Brunswick, delivered at Toronto, 1864.

(c) These figures relate to the cod, herring and mackerel fisheries. The total value of all kinds of fish taken in New Brunswick was \$518,531 in 1860, as against \$331,328 in 1850; and the census compilers state in 1861, that "a considerable portion of the catch of the past year has not been reported."