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THE TRADE REVIEW

Entercolonial Journal of Commirce.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1867.

The traffic receipts of the Grand Trunk Railway for the week ending August 17th, 1867, were \$115,599, a decrease of \$3,339, as compared with the corresponding week of 1869.

THE FISHERIES.

IME Hon. Peter Mitchell in his capacity of Minister of Marine and Fisheries, has taken the first stop towards a reformation of the important interests cutrusted to his charge, by the appointment of an Inspector of the Fisheries of the Bay of Fundy and its tributaries, and also, we believe, of the waters of the Miramichi. The appointment is universally allowed to be a very judicious one; but whether it is intended to be permanent with a view to enforcing the present laws upon the subject, or whether it is to report on the best method of obviating the existing admitted ovils, we are unaware. The exceeding importance of the fisheries is everywhere admitted, and their decay and neglect as universally deplored, and this seems to be more particularly the case with those of New Brunswick than with either of her sister provinces. It would be a waste of time to bring forward authorities to prove the immense national loss which is sustained, from a want of proper regulations strictly enforced, and the absolute certainty of the speedy extinction of the most valuable of the fisheries if the present state of things is allowed to continue. One would suppose that if anything were capable of arousing people to a sense of the importance of the subject, the able report of M. H. Perley, Esq., published in 1852, and the testimony of the officers of Her Majesty's navy, employed in the Gulf of St. Lawrenco and the Bay of Fundy, would have effectually done so. Notwithstanding, laws have been passed from time to time based upon these recommendations, they have nover been enforced, and might well be regarded as so much waste paper. What is wanted is administrative ability and honesty, to deal with the subject, and this we hope to find the new Minister of Marine and Fisheries in possession of. In dealing with the fisheries, the advantages of Confederation will be very great. Not only can there be a perfect uniformity of regulations, but any comprehensive plan for their improvement will be less likely to be defeated by local influence. The Minister speaks and acts with the authority of the whole instead of a part, and his weight and influence are proportionately increased. Obviously the first thing to be done is to insulate a thorough system of inspection and supervision, by means of which illegal methods of capture, and the senseless | the attention which it deserves.

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MORLAND, WATSON & CO.,

FRED. COLE, Secretary.

Inspector of Agencies—T. C. Livingston P.L.S.
9-1y General Agents for Canada,

and wanton destruction of millions of valuable fish on their spawning grounds may be at once stopped. Unless this is done, all other measures will be worse than useless, and we may as well reconcile ourselves at once to the speedy extinction of the shore and river fisheries After carefully looking over the enactments bearing on the subject, we are inclined to think that the existing laws are sufficient for this purpose if they are only effectively administered. It is of no use to entrust their acministration to magistrates, living it may be at considerable distances from the scene of operations, or to poorly paid officials, whose other avocations are liable to interfere with the proper discharge of their duties, who are always liable to be influenced by local feeling; and to dislike the performance of what must frequently be an unpleasant duty among their neighbours. All experience has proved this to be utterly useless. If the thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing effectively, and we believe that nothing short of dividing the whole coast into districts, and appointing a properly qualified and paid Inspector, and staff of officers to each, will meet the requirements of the case. These men would in a very short time, form a most efficient coast guard service, and would

be of the greatest use in the management of signal stations, and saving life and property from shipwrock,

besides keeping order among the fishermen, and causing intruders to respect our undoubted rights.

The expense no doubt would be considerable, but a

very short time would see such a change that nobody

would grudge the expense, and the increase of the

fish, by being protected in their spawning grounds,

would soon pay it many times over, while no one would be greater gainers than the fishermen them-

selves. Assuming then, as we hope we may, that the initiatory steps now taken for the preservation of the fisheries, will be followed up by prompt and vigorous action on some intelligent and effective system, the question arises as to the further means necessary to make them an enduring source of national wealth, Fishermen say, "it is of no use our wing rich fisheries if we have no market to sellour hin," and urge the impossibility of competing with the United States fishermen who are not only protected by a heavy discriminating duty, but have the advantage of a bounty according to tournage besides. At first sight these objections would appear to be unanswerable, and doubtless if the United States would consent to admit our fish into their markets on equitable terms, it would be best for all parties. Yet the difficulty is not so formidable as it appears, and we think that if we examine the matter a little, we shall find good reason for supposing that by taking proper steps they may be overcome altogether.

How this is to be accomplished we propose discussing in a future article, in the meantime, we congratulate the country on there being at last a prospect of this important branch of our national resources receiving