

Herring Curing and Packing.

The curing and packing of herring for shipment from Canada, has been under consideration with a view of improving the methods employed by fish curers and dealers. No doubt Canada is not reaping the full benefit of her extensive herring fisheries, as pickled herring, as a commercial article, is depreciated by the inferior methods of handling the fish from their capture on the fishing grounds until they are placed on the market.

I have become convinced by an examination of the reports which I have caused to be made, that Canadian herring cured and packed more in the manner of the Scotch and other European fish curers, will greatly enhance the value of our herring fisheries. A comparison of prices of Canadian herring, with European herring, sold in the United States, is very convincing proof that Canada is losing heavily by the present inferior methods of catching and pickling these fish.

For example, in a recent issue of the *New York Fishing Gazette*, Canadian pickled herring in New York market are quoted from \$4.25 to \$6.00 per barrel, while in the same market Scotch, English, Irish, Norwegian and Dutch herring are quoted from \$11.00 to \$12.50 per barrel and are smaller fish than the Canadian herring and not any finer in flavour. In a letter recently written to a Halifax gentlemen by a dealer in Chicago it is stated that 25,000 barrels of Dutch and Norwegian cured herring are annually imported into Chicago. The dealer referred to is of the opinion that all or nearly all of Chicago's needs in cured herring might be supplied by Canada.

It is proposed to ship \$1,000 or 1,200 barrels of herring cured in Canada by the Scotch method to New York, Chicago and Germany as an experiment.

In order to carry out a scheme for the improvement of catching and curing herring in the Dominion, a Scotch expert has been employed to visit the different fishing localities in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, to report upon the feasibility of adopting a practical method of effectively teaching our fishing population how to produce a superior article of