

salmon fishery, principally on the French shore, is slowly but surely becoming exterminated. In the bays fleets of nets are frequently laid down—sometimes twenty, forty, and even fifty at a time, and every inlet stopped; and if the fish should by any chance be able to escape the first barriers, the rivers are so obstructed by weirs, traps, dams and nets—the latter frequently stretched right across, and at close intervals—that it is a wonder that this fishery has not long since come to an end. Some of the river obstructions are generally removed before the anticipated arrival of a man-of-war, only to be replaced when she leaves the neighborhood, and it is highly desirable that some active measures should at once be taken by the Government to stop this deplorable state of affairs, before the salmon fishery of Newfoundland becomes a thing of the past. With reference to other fisheries, mackerel, halibut, turbot and lobsters are taken on the coast.

Trade of P. E. Island.

The newspapers of P. E. Island being more or less engaged in political warfare, they have hitherto completely lost sight of the importance of encouraging and stimulating the trade and industries of their beautiful little province. Hence there is not as much information with regard to her internal resources as is desirable. But the general tone of its press is no criterion by which to judge of the prosperity of the Island. It is the universal admission of all who have paid it a visit, that there is but one thing lacking to make the Island in reality what it has long been in name, "The garden of British America." That one thing is a little more push, and enterprise on the part of her business men. The Island is about 130 miles long, by 34 wide. It is indented on all sides by arms of the sea, in many places approaching from each side to within a mile or two of each other. The harbors on the South are generally excellent, those of Charlotte and Georgetown being capable of floating the largest ship in the British navy. The Gulf of St. Lawrence on the North, and the Straits of Northumberland to the South, literally swarm with fish of all kinds, and at all seasons of the year. It would be natural to expect that such being the case, the Island would have a large fishing marine, and that numbers of her people would be employed in prosecuting the fisheries. Yet the very reverse is the fact. Year after year the Island looks on with apparent indifference, and the utmost complacency at the fishing fleets of New England and Nova Scotia, which come to her doors and carry away from before her eyes thousands of barrels of the best mackerel in the world. At one time an attempt was made on the part of the Islanders to at least make believe they had at last made up

their minds to "go a fishing." A company was formed—a schooner built—a captain and crew engaged—and with colors flying the gallant craft and her crew sailed forth amid much rejoicing. But after cruising gaily up and down those beautiful waters which lave the Island shores, and enjoying as delightful a pleasure trip as mortals could desire, the brave schooner and her braver crew returned to port without having made salt for their porridge, and if the writer is not much mistaken, there is not one Island-built schooner, manned by Island men, and supported by Island money, now engaged in the fishing trade. But to do them full justice there has been for some time quite a number of men engaged in the business, who say they find it far more profitable to send out large boats, manned with from three to six hands, who sail off to sea in the morning and return to the shore with their day's spoils in the evening. As will be seen below the value of the fish thus caught amounted in six months to the very respectable sum of \$113,263.

It is far from the intention of the writer to throw any reflection upon the pluck or energy of Islanders as a class. The reasons for the lamentable failure in their first attempts at forming a nucleus of a fishing fleet are, that the Island is peculiarly an agricultural country, and the fisherman element does not exist; there as it does elsewhere, as a distinct and entirely separate class from the farming population. Now experience has shown that whenever the fisheries have been prosecuted with any degree of success, it has always been by a class who know no other mode or way of subsistence. The time, therefore, may reasonably be expected to arrive, when the population of the Island, shall have assumed larger proportions than it does at present, that a peculiarly fisherman element will be developed among her people, and the teeming waters which surround her shores prove a source of inexhaustable wealth.

The soil of the Islander is fertile and farming is prosecuted with much success. It therefore yields large quantities of cereals. The oat crop alone is very large, and immense quantities are yearly exported. Then there is also a large yield of potatoes and turnips, which are exported to various parts of the Dominion. Pork and eggs form no inconsiderable portion of the Island exports, but from the absence of reliable statistical information, we are unable to state anything definite on this point. There is also a growing increase in the export of live stock each year. Island cattle are considered superior, by those engaged in that line of business. Then there are the never failing and always famous "Bedegue Oysters," known all over the continent, and appreciated wherever known. Quite a number of traders are engaged in this business, which year by year

is becoming more lucrative. Shipbuilding is prosecuted to no inconsiderable extent, and Island ships always bring a good price in the home market.

The following from the *Charlottetown Examiner* showing the imports and exports for the last six months will give an idea of the Island's trade during that period:

TRADE OF P. E. ISLAND.	
Statement of imports into P. E. Island for the six months ending 31st December, 1873:	
Value of dutiable goods imported free	\$487,122
	\$38,500
Total value of goods imported	\$525,622
Value of goods paid duty ex ship	105,779
warehouse	26,518
Total value of goods duty paid	\$132,297
Value of goods placed in warehouse	\$29,753
Value goods of remaining in warehouse	23,450
Custom duties collected	\$9,109,576
Statement of the value of exports from P. E. Island for the six months ending 31st December, 1873:	
Products of the mine	8 65
Fisheries and their produce	113,260
Products of the forest	21,057
Animals and their produce	56,577
Agricultural products	14,388
Manufactures	2,207
Other articles	970
Total produce of Dominion	\$157,780
Coin and Bullion	180
Goods out produce	5,709
	\$163,669
Vessels exported to C. Kingdom and Nfld. 20	
vessels—1875 tons.	\$102,000
Total exports	\$265,679

Good for Prince Edward Island.

The Islands are determined to resist the scandalous attempt that is being made by a few manufacturers in Ontario, to saddle this country with a protective tariff. At an influential meeting held at Charlottetown, on Thursday evening, a protective tariff was unanimously condemned, and the following petition was adopted and signed by almost all present:

In the Honourable the House of Commons and Senate of the Dominion of Canada, in Legislative Session assembled,

The Memorial of the undersigned inhabitants of Prince Edward Island, Humbly Sheweth:

That your Memorialists have been informed that efforts are now being made by certain persons interested in manufactures to secure a material increase in the Customs Tariff of the Dominion of Canada upon manufactured articles imported from other countries.

That your Memorialists have been also informed that petitions and memorials are now being prepared for presentation to your Honorable Bodies during the coming Session.

That your Memorialists felt that the present Tariff affords to manufacturers as great protection as is consistent with the best interests of the Dominion, and that any higher duties than those at present in force would operate injuriously to the great body of consumers throughout the Dominion, who would be thereby prevented from enjoying unrestricted Free Trade and buying in the cheapest markets.

That your Memorialists respectfully present to your Honorable Bodies this protest against any material increase in the Tariff of the Dominion, and beg that you will be pleased favorably to regard their representatives.