

THE FISHERIES

TRIUMPHAL RESULT OF THE NEW POLICY

The Halifax Reporter says in a recent issue:—

"The American fishery in the Gulf this year is admitted to be a complete failure, and many vessels are already leaving for home. At this season when mackerel are fat and valuable, they can only be caught near shore, and the vigilance of Captain Scott and his fleet renders poaching a risky business. On the other hand, our own people have been unusually successful in the mackerel fishing this season, and many of them even assured the Minister that the largeness of the catch taken, together with its enhanced value, in consequence of the failure of the foreign fishermen, would more than compensate for the duty their fish had to meet in the United States markets. They attributed the result to the efficient protection of the past season."

PARTICULARS OF VESSELS SEIZED IN THE WATERS OF THE DOMINION—CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN THE COLONIAL AND HOME NAVAL DEPARTMENTS.

Writing on the 10th inst., the Ottawa correspondent of the New York Tribune says:

The particulars of the seizure of vessels, either registered in ports of the United States, or suspected of belonging to United States citizens, although registered in the Dominion, for violations of fishery laws, for smuggling, or for the offence designated "irregular papers," have been supplied me for publication in the Tribune through the courtesy of Mr. Deputy Smith, Department of Marine and Fisheries. The fishing schooner Wampatuck, registered at Plymouth, United States, was seized by the Ida E., commanded by James A. Tory. The seizure took place in Aspy Bay, N.S., and the case is before the Admiralty Courts. The J. H. Nickerson was seized in Ingonish Bay, also by the Ida E., and carried into port where she awaits the decision of the Courts. She hails from Salem, Mass., and is a fishing schooner. The schooner Minnie, also seized by the Ida E., near Sidney, is a Halifax (N.S.) vessel, and was seized for smuggling, some of the parties implicated being citizens of the United States. The schooner H. B. Lewis also hails from Halifax, N.S., and was seized for smuggling at the Henry Island by the Sweepstakes, commanded by Captain J. C. Carmichael. The schooner A. H. Wanson, registered at Gloucester U.S., was also seized by Capt. Carmichael at Sea Wolfe Island. In the latter instance the vessel was carried into port, and the case at once proceeded with in the courts, the result being that the proceeding was set aside and the vessel released. The Lizzie A. Farr, also hailing from Gloucester, was seized at the Seven Islands, St. Lawrence river, Quebec Province, by La Canadienne, commanded by Napoleon Lavoie. The schooner Lettie was seized for having irregular papers. This is a complicated case, the vessel hailing from Prince Edward's Island, and being alleged to belong to American owners. The seizure was made on the Bay des Chaleurs, Quebec Province, by the Henry E. Betts of the Ella G. McLean. The last vessel on the list so far, is the S. G. Marshall, hailing also from Prince Edward's Island, suspected of being owned by citizens of the United States. This is also an intricate case, and will take some time to decide. The S. G. Marshall was captured by Captain Hardinge, of H.M.S. Valorous, and is the only one taken by any of Her Majesty's fleet. The aggregate value of these captures is stated at about \$75,000,

gold, but it seems by no means certain that half of them will be condemned by the Admiralty Courts. All vessels seized for violations of the fishery laws have been taken within the limit of three miles from the shore, and not three miles outside the head lands; so that in respect to the vexed question of protected limit, the Canadians have taken care not to run the risk of mischance. The instructions given to commanders of Canadian fishery police schooners are, not to attempt seizure outside of an imaginary line three miles from any shore."

There has been an unpleasant correspondence between the Marine and Fisheries Department and Admiral Wellesley, commanding the British North American Squadron of Her Majesty's fleet. A sufficient force of British vessels was cruising about for the protection of the fisheries, but the Dominion Government organized a fleet of armed schooners to act independently of Imperial authority and assistance. The Department asked Admiral Wellesley to instruct his captains to report all cases of seizures effected by them to the nearest Dominion authorities, while on the other hand the Dominion Commander would be instructed to pay the Admiral a like courtesy, at his headquarters, Halifax; by which means due account would be kept of the proceedings of both Imperial and Dominion forces. The Admiral's reply was of an indignant character, and curt in the extreme; bluntly stating that the writer was an Admiral in Her Majesty's service: that he could not think of reporting himself or the vessels under his command to a junior Department (like the Marine Department of a British Colony) and that in fine he should not do it. There the matter rests.

GREAT CATCHES ON LAKE HURON. The Toronto Globe says:—

"The fisheries on the east coast of Lake Huron and in Georgian Bay are a valuable means of subsistence and profit to our hardy and venturesome settlers on those lines of navigation. We are glad to learn that the season has set in so well, and that the catch of salmon trout and whitefish at the Fishing Islands is already very large. We have not received any particulars of the catch at other places on that coast yet, but the news from Fishing Islands, after somewhat doubtful anticipations on the part of the Huron and Bruce fishermen, is encouraging. A few days ago the steamer Wm. Seymour brought into Kincardine a good instalment of the present season's lake harvest, which consisted of 11,400 pounds of fresh fish and 700 packages of salted fish. It is also stated that one firm alone in Goderich has this fall handled 600,000 pounds of fresh fish taken at various points on that coast. Herrings, trout and whitefish, fresh cured, are now ordinary luxuries in the neighbourhood of Goderich and Kincardine."

Prince Gortschakoff is credited by an Austrian journal with having demanded of the Great Powers the removal of the prohibition against Russian war vessels appearing on the Black Sea. The present attitude of Russia is made the subject of speculative telegrams from sharp and over-wise correspondents of American journals. It is gravely stated that Russia has concluded a secret treaty by which Italy gains the Tyrol, though it is not stated what will be the Czar's acquisition. Some apprehension is said to have been caused in Germany by the continued massing on her eastern border of Russian troops. The remarks of the Russian journals are decidedly unfriendly to Count Bismarck and the Prussians and there

are other indications of hostility to the rising power.

THE COLONIES AND THE MOTHER COUNTRY.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AT LIVERPOOL.

A conference for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the value of the connection between the colonies and the mother country, and the desirability of strengthening the ties which at present unite them, took place on the 19th ult. in the offices of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. Sir Stafford Northcote (until the arrival of Sir John Lubbock) took the chair, and after alluding to the prevalent impression that our colonies were in danger of parting from the mother country, said that the present was a free conference, not for the discussion of special nostrums, but by contributing information to do something towards a better understanding of the questions arising from our colonial relations. He considered the doctrine that colonies were a source of weakness to the mother country to be a mistake. The same theory might be applied to commerce. It could be shown that even in war colonies might be very useful as store houses for the mother countries. But peace and not war, was the normal condition of the country. Though our colonies now were not the source of wealth to us that they were in protective times, and even levied duties upon British produce, he did not see how matters would be mended by cutting the connection. He thought that the friendly rivalry of a more liberal tariff in the British North American Confederation would have the best effect in producing uniformity and reduction in the United States code. One very strong and legitimate reason why the colonists should maintain their connection with us was, that by the appointment of a Governor General the mother country facilitated enormously the internal forms of Government in the Colonies; ministerial responsibility, and the possession of the old country as an arbiter in international questions being found to be a great advantage. Sir John Lubbock endorsed the views of Sir Stafford as to the importance of maintaining the connection between the mother country and the colonies. After some remarks from Mr. Macfie, M.P., Sir Henry Barkly, late Governor of Victoria, delivered a short address, in which he entirely agreed with the previous speakers as to the general principles which should regulate the connection between the mother country and the colonies. A great deal more, however, might be done at present by forbearance and moderation of expression on the part of our leading statesmen and writers than by the establishment of any particular theory of connection. The Australians felt deeply any disparaging expressions, such as "that they might go when they liked," "that England was not disposed to keep them," &c. Lord Milton dwelt particularly upon the importance of a better treatment of the North American colonies. The colonists had this impression and if it continued to exist it would be most detrimental to Great Britain and the Anglo-Saxon race in general. Lord Sandon, M.P., congratulated the meeting upon the improved feeling with regard to the British colonies which was manifested by the Government and the Legislature. The guaranteeing of the loan to New Zealand had altered the whole question. One great advantage of a meeting like this was to contradict the impression that England had any intention to break up that great British Confederacy which was the source of so much pride and