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THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

This Exhibition will be opened on the 1st of May, 1883, in London, England, and will remain open for a period of six months. The principal objects to be admitted are all kinds of specimens of fish-life, and to illustrate all the modes by which the Marine and Fresh-water animals of economic value are captured and utilised, together with the commercial, scientific, social, historic and legislative aspects of such fisheries.

The United States Congress have lately voted \$50,000 in order that fishing industries carried on by the American people may be properly represented. Our neighbours say that the amount invested by them for the Berlin Exhibition, was money well spent, and they are determined not to be behind in a show of this nature, especially when it is patronized by our beloved Queen and the male portion of the Royal family, also by foreign Princes and all the noblemen of the British nation. The Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B. Premier of Canada, represents our Dominion, as a Vice-President and member of the General Committee.

There is a Fisheries Department at Ottawa, and its Chief is a Council Minister; yet up to this instant, nothing has actually been done to illustrate in London next year, products from our great lakes and rivers throughout this vast Dominion. The Exhibition was in prospect months gone by, and to-day we find the men in charge of our Fisheries only commencing to procure material when the season is almost past. There are a few *pseudo* naturalists connected with the Government who seem to have all this kind of business arranged in their own way, and large sums of money is

expended from year to year on experiments that never return a cent into the Exchequer. We know that Mr. S. Wilmot of Newcastle, O. has done his share to make a successful show, but some one in the Department is to blame for procrastination and want of energy. When Mr. Wilmot exhibited his fishes at Ottawa, the Editor of this Journal competed with a collection of stuffed Food-fishes from the Province of Quebec; many of the latter species were different from those exhibited by the former gentleman. The Quebec Fish collection was offered to the Fisheries Department, at a reasonable price; the offer being made through Mr. Whitcher, who knew that the lot was a bargain, and by his request, they were packed and left in Ottawa, to await a reply from the Chief of the Department. Some days afterwards an answer was received that the Department had no money to purchase Stuffed Fishes, and the collection was brought back to Montreal, where it was immediately purchased by Dr. Sterry Hunt and presented to McGill College Museum. Mr. Wilmot endeavoured to induce Mr. Whitcher to purchase the collection, and probably they now regret not having secured it. A second collection was started by the same hands, which was exhibited at Mile-end, Montreal. The officers of the Fisheries Department were cognizant of this exhibit, but made no effort to secure it; therefore a part of it is now in McGill College Museum and the remainder was purchased by the Rev. C. J. S. Bethune and belongs to Trinity College, Port Hope, O. Now, the result is that these specimens are not available for loan, and from want of foresight much of the material which would represent the Food Fishes of the Province of Quebec, cannot now be obtained in time to be represented in the London Exhibition. If our Fisheries Department is to be a live Canadian Institution,