

of the Administration. Seven days afterwards Mr. Belleau became Minister of Agriculture in the Cartier-Macdonald Cabinet, and with his colleagues went out of office on the 21st May following, when the J. S. Macdonald-Sicotte Administration came into power.

In 1859 the loyal people of Canada were seized with a strong desire to obtain a visit from Royalty, and they thought the great event of the opening of the Victoria Bridge, across the St. Lawrence, at this city, an occasion sufficiently important to warrant them in inviting the Queen to cross the Atlantic and honour the ceremony with her august presence. Accordingly, in May of that year a most loyal address was voted by both Houses of Parliament, beseeching Her Majesty and such other members of the Royal household as she would be pleased to bring to pay her devoted Canadian subjects a visit in the following year. In due time a most gracious answer came from Downing Street, expressing the Queen's great regret that duties of State compelled Her Majesty to decline; but that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales would visit her British American Provinces as her representative. In the following year (1860) the Prince landed at Halifax, and, having visited the principal places in the Maritime Provinces, arrived at Quebec on the 18th August. On the 21st His Royal Highness held a levee at the Parliament buildings, at which, the Hon. Mr. Belleau having presented a dutiful address from the Legislative Council, the Prince of Wales was pleased, after having made a suitable response, to command that Mr. Belleau should come forward and kneel, when, in true Royal fashion, the Prince touched his shoulder with the sword, saying, "Arise, Sir Narcisse Belleau." A similar honour of Knighthood was afterwards conferred upon the Speaker of the House of Commons. These honours, so sparingly distributed on the memorable occasion of the Prince's visit, were most judiciously bestowed upon the two gentlemen holding the highest dignities in the Legislature of the country.

From 1862 until the death of Sir E. P. Taché, Premier of the Coalition Government, on the 30th July, 1865, Sir Narcisse continued in the quiet and unostentatious discharge of his duties as Legislative Councillor without either desiring or attracting a large share of public attention. But by the lamented death of the gallant and patriotic Premier, the Ministry were placed in an exceedingly embarrassing position as to who amongst them should become the head of the Cabinet; and, finding that the Coalition character of their compact might be jeopardised by the political promotion of either of the leaders in the Legislative Assembly, they resolved to look in the Legislative Council, where Sir E. P. Taché had been an honoured member, to find one who, from nationality and reputation, could best fill his place. The choice fell upon Sir Narcisse Belleau, who was accordingly sworn into office as Premier and Receiver-General. His government, with a few personal changes, continued in office until the great work of Confederation, commenced under the Premiership of his predecessor, had been completed; and until, by the Queen's proclamation, the old state of affairs was abolished for the new on the first day of July, 1867. Sir Narcisse was named in Her Majesty's proclamation as one of the twenty-four Senators to represent the Province of Quebec; but having been immediately afterwards appointed to the office of Lieut.-Governor, he never took his seat in the Senate of the Dominion.

In entering upon the performance of his new and important duties as Governor of his native Province, Sir Narcisse showed the same sound judgment which had formerly characterised all his public acts. He had to surround himself with constitutional advisers; and his first step was to offer the duty of forming a Ministry to the Hon. Mr. Cauchon. That gentleman failing, Sir Narcisse appealed to the Hon. Mr. Chauveau, who, though long out of political life, was perfectly familiar with its duties and responsibilities. Mr. Chauveau succeeded in forming a government, which, so far, has made the gubernatorial duties of Sir Narcisse as easy as possible, for throughout the Government, the people's representatives and the country at large, have been in the most harmonious accord. The session now being held promises to be no exception to those which have preceded it in this respect, so that the first Lt.-Governor of the Province of Quebec is already well assured of an easy reign for his full term of office.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

No. 16.—BRITISH COLUMBIA.—FISHERIES, &c.

By the Rev. An. McD. Dawson, Ottawa.

COB.

Cob has not as yet been much fished for in the seas to the westward of British Columbia. Salmon and other excellent fish are so plentiful along the shores and in all the straits, bays, inlets, and rivers of the country, and are so much more easily caught, that the aboriginal tribes have neglected deep sea fishing. This neglect may be ascribed not only to the great abundance of fish which offer a rich harvest in the midst of their abodes, but also to the fragile nature of their sailing craft, and the many difficulties and dangers of the seas when once the fishermen of the woods pass beyond the shelter of their inland bays, gulfs and estuaries. Cob is not, however, unknown in British Columbian waters. Although seldom exposed for sale in the market of Victoria, it is found in abundance both at the northern and southern extremities of Vancouver's Island. The Indians fish for them, to some

extent, along the coast. But no regular system of deep sea fishing has as yet been inaugurated either by them or by European colonists. Naturalists are agreed, nevertheless, that this fish, which delights in deep waters, is very abundant at some distance from the shores, and some of them have expressed the opinion that when once the deep sea line is applied by experienced hands, treasures will be derived from vast and rich ocean mines, as yet unworked, that will prove more truly valuable than the furs of Hudson's Bay or the gold of California and Cariboo.

FLAT-FISH—HALIBUT.

There are several species of FLAT-FISH. The smaller kinds are found in muddy and shallow waters near the shores—in Puget's Sound, and at the mouths of the Fraser and Columbia rivers, although, indeed, the latter river ought not to be mentioned in this connection, as at the places where it swarms with flat-fish, it does not belong to British Columbia. Of these fish the HALIBUT is the chief. It frequents deep sea sand banks on the west coast of Vancouver's Island. It grows to an enormous size, weighing, not unfrequently, three hundred lbs. It has a monstrous mouth—not too large, perhaps, for so great a fish, and appears to be omnivorous, devouring everything that comes within its reach. The Indians shew great skill in capturing this gigantic flounder. Some four of them embark in a "dug-out," which is nothing else than a canoe made out of a solid log. The lines they take with them are of their own manufacture, and are made from the inner bark of the cypress. They are very strong, neatly twisted, and sixty fathoms in length. They have also two spear-halts about sixty feet long, as well as a dozen shorter spears. These latter spears are barbed at one end, whilst the other end is so constructed as to fit on the longer spear, to which it is fixed in such a manner that the spearman can easily jerk it off. A sealskin bladder, well inflated, is tied lightly to the centre of each of the smaller spears, the line by which it is held being about three fathoms long. Thus equipped, the canoe puts to sea; nor does its crew of swarthy fishermen cease to ply the paddle, till it is far away from shore, and the land is scarcely discernible. They now uncoil the line at the bow, and attach to it, as a sinker, a heavy stone enclosed in a net; they also fasten to it, by means of a hempen cord, a large hook, made of bone and hardwood. This hook is baited with a piece of the Octopus. All being now ready, down goes the sinker: the line rushes over the side of the canoe with a rattling sound, and the dusky fishermen wait, in breathless silence, for a bite! Nor have they long to wait. The tempting bait no sooner descends to the regions of the monster fish, than it is pounced upon by some unwary member of the tribe. The tug, which accompanies the swallowing of the savoury morsel, is not always unattended with danger to the canoe-men. The fish continues bolting his prize until the hook is fairly buried in his fleshy throat. And now, as the prey does not quite agree with him, he shews his dislike to it, and gives some nice employment to his persecutors. The man at the bow, in a kneeling posture, holds the line tightly with both hands, the one next him seizes one of the long spears, and adroitly places on the end of it a shorter one, which had been previously baited and buoyed: the remaining two cautiously ply the paddles. At first the fish will remain at the bottom, as if in bad humour or greatly perplexed. He is soon roused, however, by repeated jerks at the line. He becomes greatly excited, and rises suddenly to the surface, with a view, probably, to ascertain whence the annoyance proceeds. The spearman at once avails himself of this expected opportunity. He casts his spear, skilfully, and pierces the huge flounder, at the same time, plucking the longer spear, or haft, from the shorter and barbed spear, which remains in the fish. Meanwhile, the bladder buoy, floating on the surface, indicates the position and movements of the fish. Not over well pleased with his reception, the duped halibut resolves on a speedy descent to his safer abode near the bottom of the sea. But he fails to accomplish his purpose. He is buoyed up, in spite of all his efforts, by the inflated bladder. Transfixed with spear after spear, he is at length compelled to float. The paddlers and line-men shew wonderful dexterity all the time, in following the rapid windings and twistings of their formidable captive. Their labour is less difficult when they once have him buoyed and prevented from diving. He still makes desperate efforts to escape, by swimming, whilst his captors, by keeping the line tight, oblige him to tow the canoe. At length he shews signs of weariness. But, although his attempts to escape become more feeble and less frequent, and his swimming slower, he will not yet surrender. As often as the canoe comes close up to him, he renews his efforts, flies through the water, sometimes nearly dragging the tiny craft into the depths,—now causing it to spin suddenly round with the velocity of a whipped top. In such circumstances nothing less than the admirable dexterity of the Indian paddlers could prevent shipwreck and the drowning of the whole crew. What exciting sport! Who would not desire to see these untutored denizens of the forest displaying such extraordinary skill and tact in their conflict with a great monster of the deep ten times their strength? In approaching the shore, they cautiously proceed, stern foremost, lest the fish, recovering his exhausted strength, should suddenly make for his deep sea realms, when it would be necessary to pay out line and follow him. When he can struggle no more, the Indians haul the duped and defeated

giant to the beach, where, powerless and spent, he perishes under the knife and club of his captors.

This magnificent fish is supposed to be the *Pleuronectes Nippoglossus* of Linnaeus. Specimens weighing 300 lbs. have been captured by the Indians on the coasts of British Columbia. When these people succeed in bringing a Halibut to land, they cut it in pieces, and at once devour some portions of it after a hasty roasting. The remainder they pack up and reserve for future use. The roe, which is bright red, they consider quite a dainty. This wonderful flat-fish, as they relate, spawns in the middle of February.

THE SMALLER FLAT-FISH.

The smaller kinds of FLAT-FISH, or FLOUNDER, are very plentiful in the bays and inlets of the mainland, as well as the inland portions of British Columbia. The species that are most commonly seen may be mentioned here. The two-lined FLAT-FISH (*Pleuronectes bilineatus*, called also *Platessa bilineata*) is about half as high as it is long, and its head is one-fourth of its entire length. The nose projects a little. The eyes are large and separated by a strong prominent ridge, which is partly covered with scales. In each jaw there is a single even row of strong, blunt teeth, which are less developed on the uppermost and coloured side, than on the other. The lower jaw is prominent, and the scales are very conspicuous. This fish is of a light-greyish-brown colour, with lighter marks or blotches.

The next species is the TWO-LINED FLOUNDER (*Pleuronectes digrammus*). Whilst its name is pretty much the same, it differs in proportions from the former, the height of its body being rather less than one-third of its whole length, the head two-ninths, and the caudal two thirteenths. The snout and lower jaw are prominent. The eyes are separated by a very narrow, naked, bony ridge, and the scales are small but conspicuous. On the coloured side it is uniformly brownish.

Pleuronectes verrucosus is a third species of Flat-fish which does not appear to have any distinctive English name. The height is rather more than one-half the length of its body, including the caudal region. The head is one-fourth, and the caudal one-fifth. It has a very blunt and short nose, a small mouth, and even jaws. It is of a greyish colour, thickly dotted with white and black spots.

Whilst the larger species are taken with hook and line, the Indians generally spear these smaller Flounders. On his spearing excursions, however, Redskin does not paddle his own canoe, but leaves this duty to his squaw. A fleet of canoes may often be seen, and it is no uninteresting spectacle, impelled by the dusky Dames of the tribe, whilst the swarthy lords sit in the bows, "preddling" with their spears for the fish that are hidden in the mud and sand. The Flounders, thus apprised of the enemy's advance, scud along the bottom, stirring up the mud as he proceeds. The Indian keeps his keen eye on the trail, and bringing his canoe to the spot where it ends, throws his spear, transfixes the luckless fish, and, in a moment, transfers it from its imaginary hiding-place to the custody of his vigilant squaw. In this way, great takes are achieved by the dexterous spearman of the woods.

H. R. H. PRINCESS LOUISE.

Although royal marriages are by no means of unfrequent occurrence in England, the announcement of the betrothal of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne has excited a remarkable amount of interest and sympathy. This is due to two causes—the personal popularity of the Princess Louise, and the unusual and somewhat romantic circumstance of a Princess of the Blood forming a matrimonial alliance with a commoner. We must go a long way back in English history to discover a precedent for the alliance which is now sanctioned between such a subject, however ennobled or renowned, and such a bride. Princesses have again and again broken through the bar of birth, but Princesses have been instinctively obedient to family law, and we do not find an instance of a daughter of a living crowned head marrying a subject since the reign of Edward III., five centuries since. Marriages between Princesses and subjects have occurred since, but at most in five cases, and all under peculiar circumstances.

The Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James I., and widow of the King of Bohemia, is understood to have privately married Lord Craven, at whose house in Drury-lane she died a few months after her return from exile with her nephew Charles II., but the circumstances of the marriage are extremely obscure, and the Queen was entirely released from royal control. The Princess Mary, sister of Henry VIII., took the opportunity, much to the indignation of her brother, of marrying Charles Brandon, who was sent to fetch her back from France, on the death of her husband, Louis XII.; but the peculiarity of this case is also obvious. Henry VII. permitted three of the daughters of Edward IV., and sisters of his own Queen, to marry the heads of the families of Howard, Courtenay, and Welles; but Henry VII. never fully recognised the legality of the royal title of his father-in-law.

The latest instance of this kind of marriage is found in the union of the Duke of York, afterwards James II., with Lady Anne Hyde, who was daughter of Lord Chancellor Clarendon. Antecedent to the Stuart period, however, such marriages were by no means unfrequent. Henry VIII. took to himself no less than four wives from among the commoners of his kingdom. Edward, eldest son of Henry VI., married Lady Anne Neville, daughter of the "king-maker," Earl of Warwick. Philippa, the daughter of Edward III., united herself with the Earl of March. The Black Prince, her brother, contracted wedlock with Joan, "the Fair Maid of Kent." King John's daughter, Eleanor, married the Earl of Pembroke, and Maud and Gundred, children of William the Conqueror, were married respectively to the Earl of Chester and the Earl of Surrey. It is a curious fact that in the days when feudalism was strongest the line of demarcation between royalty and the peerage was more easily passed than it has subsequently been.