

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FISHERIES.

A fisheries supplement just issued to the annual report of the Department of Marine gives details of the British Columbia fisheries for the year ending December 31st, 1892.

During 1892 the total value of the Canadian fish catch was \$18,941,171, exclusive of the catch of the Indians of British Columbia for food purposes, estimated at \$3,000,000 more. This is, with the exception of 1891, which was a few thousand dollars more, the most valuable record.

British Columbia ranks third of the provinces in the commercial value of the catch, and would rank only just below the highest if Indian fishing counted. The provinces figure commercially as follows:

Nova Scotia.....	\$6,340,724
New Brunswick.....	3,203,922
British Columbia.....	2,203,922
Quebec.....	2,236,732
Ontario.....	2,042,198
Prince Edward Island.....	1,179,856
Manitoba and N. W. Territories.....	1,088,254

Total.....\$18,941,171

Although Canada as a whole made almost the best showing last year on record, the Pacific Province fell off a little, being \$159,271 below 1891. The quantity of salmon disposed of in a fresh state exceeded that of 1891 by 800,000 lbs., but the pack of the canners fell short by over 3,600,000 cans. This limited output is said to have been due more to a desire to regulate the supply than on account of any scarcity of fish. The season of 1892 was considered satisfactory for what is termed an "off year" having turned out much better than the preceding periodical "off year" (1888.)

As was to be expected in view of the Behring Sea *modus vivendi*, a decline in the number of fur seals taken occurred, due apparently to the prohibition of sealing in Behring Sea, and not to any diminution in the number of those valuable animals.

The other fisheries of British Columbia yielded fairly well for the attention paid them. Halibut especially shows an increase of over 200,000 lbs.

An incident worthy of note was the capture of several shad at River's Inlet, and on the North Arm of the Fraser. The inspector states that all the shad on the Pacific Coast originated from the fry planted in Sacramento River, and he alludes to the incident to show a northward migration by these fish of over 1,000 miles.

The following is a statement of 1892 of the Pacific Coast fisheries:

	1892.
Salmon.....	\$ 28,176
do fresh.....	293,553
do preserved, in cans.....	1,371,631
do smoked.....	27,000
Herring, fresh and salted.....	23,652
do smoked.....	2,520
Trout, fresh.....	6,805
Sturgeon.....	26,025
Halibut, fresh.....	67,875
Skill, salted.....	1,140
Clams.....	9,625
do canned.....	525
Mussels.....	4,000
Oysters.....	7,000
Oolachon, pickled.....	3,270
do smoked.....	8,770
do fresh.....	602,706
Fur seal skins.....	6,700
Hair seal.....	2,100
Sea otter skins.....	129,046
Fish oils.....	30,000
Crabs.....	

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Smelts, fresh.....	7,830
Assorted or mixed fish.....	21,516
Rock Cod.....	8,675
Tooshqua, fresh.....	20,815
Fish products.....	6,425
Fish for home consumption, Chinese laborers, not included above.....	125,000
Total.....	\$2,849,433

That there is destined to be a tremendous development in the fisheries of British Columbia is shown by the fact alone that the length of sea coast of British Columbia, 7,000 miles, is greater than the sea coast of all the other provinces put together.

At present capital invested in fisheries in British Columbia is put down at \$1,806,352, and the number of hands employed in fishing, sealing and canning at 8,170. The capital is figured as follows:

143 vessels, 5,254 tons.....	\$ 656,150
1766 boats.....	91,365
278,468 fathoms of gill nets.....	210,662
15,200 fathoms of seines.....	15,300
Trawl lines.....	13,875
Total.....	\$ 987,352
38 salmon canneries.....	\$ 760,000
12 oil factories.....	38,000
2 freezing establishments.....	18,000
6 salting stations.....	3,000
Total.....	\$ 819,000

Grand Total.....\$1,806,352

There are also 250 canoes employed by sealing vessels, valued at \$15,000.

The men employed are set down as white sailors and seal hunters, 961, Indians 511; fishermen and canners, 6,698.

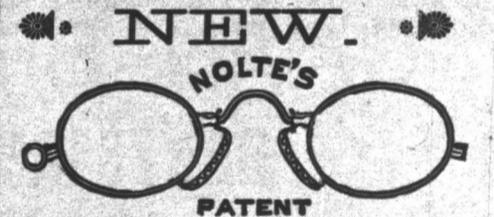
FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

The following are the shipments for the week ending September 2—

Date.	Vessel and Destination.	Tons.
	NEW VANCOUVER COAL CO. SHIPPING.	
30.	Commodore, ship, San Francisco	3,120
30.	Wanderer, str., Port Townsend..	43
31.	Romulus, str., San Francisco.....	4,139
1.	Mogul, str., Port Townsend.....	44
Total.....		7,346

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