

FALL TRADE.

1874. AUGUST. 1874.

**Bryce McMurrich & Co.**

WHOLESALE

DRY GOODS MERCHANTS,

Are now receiving their

FALL IMPORTATIONS

By steamers from LONDON, LIVERPOOL, and GLASGOW, and expect Stocks in all Departments will be FULLY ASSORTED in course of present month.

Agents for sale of DUNDAS COTTON MILLS MANUFACTURES.

WAREHOUSE—34 Yonge Street, TORONTO.

THE MONETARY TIMES, AND TRADE REVIEW.

TORONTO, CAN. FRIDAY SEPT. 4, 1874.

OUR FISHERIES—1873.

“Let me now draw your attention for a moment to the value of these North American Fisheries. You have behind and around you here, boundless prairies, which an all-bountiful Creator annually covers with rich harvests of wheat and corn. The ocean is our prairie, and it stretches away before and around us, and Almighty God for the sustenance of man, annually replenishes it with fish in myriads that can't be counted, and having a commercial value that no man can estimate.”

The above are the eloquent words in which the late Hon. Joseph Howe, of Nova Scotia, referred to the importance of our fisheries at the famous Detroit Commercial Convention in 1865. His words are fully borne out by the annual returns from our various fishing stations, nearly all of which are in a highly prosperous and satisfactory condition.

We have gone carefully over the fisheries report for 1873—which recently came to hand—and the year appears to have been of a most successful character. Many of our readers will be surprised to learn that the production for last year is estimated to have been of a value of nearly \$20,000,000, of this amount \$11,794,975 worth were taken by our own hardy sons of the deep, and the catch of American fishermen is set down at from six to eight millions of dollars. It is calculated that the fishermen themselves and their families used about one million dollars worth, the amount exported abroad and consumed in domestic commerce, being of the value of \$10,722,705.

Nothing could more clearly exhibit than these figures the immense value of our fisheries, not to speak of the great advantage arising from having such a nursery for the training of hardy seamen. And, according to the official statements, their prosperity is increasing. In 1871, the value of the yield to our fishermen was \$9,455,223, in the following year, 1872, it was \$114,893 more, and last year, as we have seen, over two millions and a quarter more. We ought to add, that these figures do not include the returns for Manitoba and British Columbia, each of which possesses, fishing grounds of a valuable character.

As in shipping so in the fisheries Nova Scotia takes the lead. It is her chief industry, and truly of that Province it may be said, “the ocean is her prairie.” The value of the catch in 1873, was \$6,577,086, and to bring clearly before our readers—a large proportion of whom dwell so far from the salt water—the character of this profitable trade in fish, we append the value of each description taken:

Codfish .....	\$2,531,159
Mackerel.....	1,410,050
do. preserved .....	1,626
Herrings.....	712,504
do. smoked .....	5,357
Salmon pickled .....	83,394
do. in ice .....	75,678
do. smoked .....	5,664
do. preserved.....	40,450
Alewives .....	41,240
Cod Tongues, &c .....	17,269
Pollock .....	88,725
Hake .....	155,123
Haddock.....	97,682
Halibut .....	32,102
Shad .....	36,896
Bass.....	153
Trout .....	4,390
Smelts .....	6,772
Eels .....	21,033
Oysters .....	36,384
Lobsters.....	865,574
Oil .....	302,496
Fish Guano.....	4,830
Fish Manure .....	529

New Brunswick's production is a little over one-third that of Nova Scotia, having been of the value of \$2,285,661 last year. Canned lobsters, we observe, figure high in the list—in fact, the canning of both salmon and lobsters is now being extensively and successfully prosecuted in both of these Provinces. The produce of the Quebec fisheries was \$1,391,564, and in Ontario, \$293,091. We are glad to find Prince Edward Island makes its appearance for the first time in the returns. It added \$207,545 to the value of the total catch.

Under the Treaty of Washington, the fishermen of the United States, were to be admitted to use our fisheries on the 1st of July, 1873. Our Government advised that of the United States, that their citizens

might use our waters in advance of the formal time prescribed in the Treaty. This graceful act led to the American Government issuing a circular on the 1st of April, 1873, under which American fishermen at once availed themselves of the freedom of our inshore fisheries. Mr. Fish, the Secretary of State, afterwards expressed to our Government the thanks of the United States for this concession, which he described as “a courteous and liberal act.”

A great improvement is taking place in our salmon fisheries in the Province of Quebec, the yield has increased in some localities 300 per cent. This result, the Commissioner, Mr. Witcher, attributes entirely to protecting the fish whilst breeding, and in reducing the number of nets used. The river Moisie has improved greatly, and the beneficial effects of decreasing the netting is proved by the fact, that with 15,000 fathoms of nets in 1859, the Moisie yielded 75,000 lbs of salmon, whilst in 1873, with only 2,500 fathoms of nets, it yielded 204,000 lbs.

No fish are more profitable than oysters and lobsters. We regret to say, that our oyster beds are as yet neither numerous nor productive. The report informs us that an Order-in-Council establishing a close time of three months, “failed to arrest the decline of the oyster fishery.” We regret to see so curt a reference in the report to this important branch of our fisheries, and we are not rendered very hopeful of improvement in the future by the vague promise that “more effectual means must soon be devised.” Prompt, not less than effective, action should be taken to cultivate the oyster in our waters. In the case of lobsters, the picture is brighter. About forty factories in Nova Scotia, and twenty-four in New Brunswick, are engaged in preparing and canning this delicious fish. Last year 20,000 tons were exported to the United States, whose lobster fisheries on the north-eastern coast have been exhausted by excessive fishing. A large quantity of these canned lobsters now also find their way to Ontario and Quebec, the total value of which last year is estimated to have been \$1,214,749.

Some of those engaged in the lobster canning business have protested against the regulations issued by the Government to prevent our lobster fisheries from being destroyed like those of the United States. The officers of the Department of Fisheries have only to make sure that they have made the proper regulations to gain the end desired, and all classes will sustain them in a policy which will benefit instead of ruining our lobster fisheries, and which, in