

be almost a failure, and as they had had many losses in May, both of vessels, boats, and men, the Newfoundland men were in hopes of a larger number of fish striking in for the coast. NEWFOUND-
LAND.

Again, the Newfoundland fishermen had not sold so much bait from the coast to the French, as they generally do.

There were some complaints of distress on the South Shore, but not more than is usually to be found among these improvident people, who, when they do have a good season, spend all their earnings at once, without thinking of putting any by in case of a bad season the following year.

On the West Coast the fishing had been a great success for the French, and also for the few Newfoundlanders that were allowed the privilege of fishing.

In the Straits of Belle Isle, particularly on the Labrador Coast, from Red Bay Westward to Bonne Esperance, the season had been better than remembered for twenty-four years; this I attribute in a great measure to the fish remaining in the narrow part of the Straits, unable to go to the Northward owing to the great quantity of ice packed off the Labrador Coast, in the vicinity of Battle Harbour, and North and East of that place.

The weather, both on the South and West Shore, had been far better than last year, though there has been much fog; the absence of ice on the coast has allowed the fish to strike in. The Straits of Belle Isle were impassable, however, till the 25th of June.

On my return to St. John's after the first cruise round the island, I found that anticipations of a good catch on the South Shore had been realized.

The French fishing on the East Coast has been bad, owing to ice coming in on the coast after the fishing had commenced, compelling the fishermen to do nothing but wait till it went off, which did not take place till the latter end of June.

During my first cruise, on visiting ports in the Straits of Belle Isle, in the vicinity of Forteau, thirteen French schooners were found trespassing west of that place, and were ordered off by Lieutenant Hughes, according to my instructions, after taking their names, which I reported by letter to Commodore Mer, French senior officer on the Fisheries, on my arrival at Croc.

LABRADOR COAST.

Though being prepared, on leaving St. John's in September, to receive bad accounts of the Labrador catch, I did not anticipate finding, as I did, almost a perfect failure on most parts of the coast; thereby great distress may be expected during the winter at St. John's amongst these fishermen.

As an instance of the bad season at Greedy Island, usually one of the most successful stations, Messrs. King and Larmour could only pay their men for four quintals each, about 56s. currency, when it is considered that 30 quintals is the lowest a man can earn to clear himself of his outfit.

This failure is owing to the succession of North and N.E. gales, and great quantities of ice on the coast, Hopedale not being open till the 27th of July, and closed in again on the 17th August.

Mr. Norman, of Indian Harbour, had a boat waiting off Hopedale for some days after the 25th August, but being unable to get into the harbour, returned on the 20th September.

Some fishermen did well in the vicinity of Mannock's Island, owing to a gap forming in the ice, allowing the fish to strike in, and those men who were on the spot making a good catch. The price of fish is low this year on the Labrador, the merchants not giving more than 16s. currency.

The seal fishery in the spring was good on the average, the steamers from St. John's and Harbour Grace having realised large profits.

ST. PIERRE.—I arrived here on the 20th of May (not having seen any vessels on the banks, owing to thick weather), and found the harbour full. I was informed by Captain Mer that the French fishing had been bad owing to the weather, they having experienced eight losses during the first fourteen days of May.

The town of St. Pierre appears to be thriving; the Governor has established a charity-school for girls, the children of poor fishermen, on the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, under direction of the Sisters of Mercy of the Convent.

There are 36 at present in the institution, but they will have more as soon as the house can be enlarged. The girls are taught principally needle-work, cooking, and domestic arrangements.