

The Commissioners remark :

"It is not difficult to understand the cause of the active and eager desire of the American fishermen to increase their catch of mackarel. Twenty-five millions of people agree to pay to 15 to 20,000 of their number, (being fishermen), a protection equal to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dollars for every barrel of fall mackarel they bring home. This is an inducement sufficient to stimulate a less enterprising people than such as inhabit the eastern harbours of the United States. The business has, consequently, increased until the number of their fishing vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the past season, has been computed at from 1000 to 1200, and the result of their voyages has produced an inspection, in Massachusetts alone, of a total of 329,278 barrels ; of which 90,411 barrels were No. 1—102,364 barrels No. 2—136,089 barrels No. 3, and 412 barrels No. 4. This quantity of mackarel, together with the catch of the different ports of Maine and other parts of the United States, will, it is supposed, fully meet their consumptive demand for the year, and prices of fall mackarel are from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dollars per barrel less than at this period last year.

"It is clearly evident, therefore, that had our shore fishery succeeded and produced the usual catch of fall mackarel, a market could not have been found for them in the U. States, unless forced at extreme low prices.

"No doubt whatever remains on the minds of the Commissioners of the cause of the failure of the Net and Seine Fishery on our shores.

"An immense fleet of vessels provided with suitable bait, fed the fish in the Gulf plentifully until the 13th to the 20th November. At this date the weather becomes too boisterous to attend the nets and seines, and they are removed for the season. The fish then pass to the westward, too late for our fishermen.\*

"The export trade from the port of Halifax, for the past year (as respects our principal article, fish) has been large, and the trade to the Foreign West India Islands is largely on the increase. Porto Rico has taken 70,000 quintals of Dry Fish, and 15,000 barrels of Mackarel and Herring. Cuba, 32,000 quintals of Dry Fish, and 1,000 barrels of Pickled Fish. Our sister colony, Jamaica, is, however, our best customer, and has taken the past year the large quantity of 103,000 quintals of Dry Fish, and 43,000 barrels of Mackarel, Herring and Salmon, besides 3,000 barrels of Fish Oil, with a considerable quantity of Lumber, Butter, &c., from the port of Halifax alone. When we add to this the export to the same Island from Arichat, Liverpool, Yarmouth, Ragged Islands, &c., it will exhibit an important branch of our trade.

"The other British West India Islands took from us the past year, 26,000 quintals of Dry Fish, and 4,500 barrels of Pickled Fish, the remainder of their supplies of fish going to them direct from Newfoundland.

"Our Fish export to the United States has been, during the year, 58,146 barrels of Mackarel, 18,490 barrels of Herrings, 3,215 barrels of Salmon, and 3,603 quintals of Cod Fish, the principal part in the early months of the year remaining over from the catch of 1850.

"To Canada, the past year, our export of Fish has been trifling. A few shipments of Herrings and Oil from this port and Canso, comprising the whole."

The Cod Fishery, for the same period, we learn from the Commissioners' report, was about an average. A larger number of vessels than usual fitted out for the Bank Fishery, and were generally successful.

\* The result of the Mackarel Fishery in 1852, will not be so flattering to American interests. Her Majesty's steam vessels, and the cutters fitted out by the Province, have materially affected their catch, by a rigid enforcement of the provisions of the Treaty.