

Fjord, the most important of them between Stavanger and this last named Fjord, extending over a range of 1,200 miles of coast; some of them are variable, both as regards time of year and locality; others recur at stated periods, but with lesser oscillations with respect to time and place.

The population directly and indirectly interested in the fisheries, is probably not less than 150,000, and the fishermen actually engaged in them at one time not less than 60,000. These latter move to-and-fro with their boats along the coast, according to the reports they hear of the so called "sights," *i. e.* straw herring, sea birds, whales, &c., &c.; and formerly before the telegraph was impressed into their service—the inability to test the accuracy of the reports, and the great distance they had to traverse before reaching the neighbourhood of the shoals, were the cause of endless disappointments and failures, and the catch was frequently lost for the want of hands to capture fish. This is now all changed as far as the herring fishery is concerned. Telegraphic stations are now erected, or are in course of erection, at the principal points along the coast, and the Inspectors cause daily notices of the appearance and position of the shoals to be posted up at each station, and keep up constant communication with all these stations now in operation. "Field" telegraphs are kept, in readiness to be joined on to the main line, and thus the slightest movements of the shoals are carefully watched and communicated, and it is a curious sight to witness the sudden exodus of thousands of fishermen with their train of buyers, salters, &c. with boats, barrels and appliance hastening to a distant place at the call of the wire. The men seem to prize highly this valuable coadjutor, and when the catch is chiefly attributable to its agency, they call the fish "Telegraph herrings." The Inspectors likewise, every morning post up at the different stations a statement of the quantities fished, and quotations of prices paid per barrel, which they continue to do until the spawning time is passed, which is indicated by the milky appearance of the water.

Although the herring is fished during three months, the chief fishings only extend over about six weeks, during which from 10,000 to 20,000 tons are taken weekly.

The benefit likely to accrue from the use of the telegraph is incalculable, for it is not only likely to increase the yield of the great annual cod and herring fisheries, but it will enable the scattered dwellers along the coast and on the shores of the large Fjord to assemble at given spots during other seasons of the year, and to prosecute with advantage the minor but numerous other fisheries of the country, especially that of the fat and much esteemed summer herring, which, in plumpness and delicacy of flavour, fully competes with the Dutch or "North herring."

The quantity of spring herring fished, during the last twelve years, was as follows:—

	Barrels.		Barrels.
In 1855.....	420,000	In 1861.....	365,000
1856.....	320,000	1862.....	740,000
1857.....	320,000	1863.....	730,000
1858.....	400,000	1864.....	590,000
1859.....	610,000	1865.....	685,000
1860.....	730,000	1866.....	750,000

I have no means of ascertaining the extent of the fishings of any number of previous years, but the followed Table of the quantity exported since the year 1816 will give an approximate idea of it, if it be borne in mind that scarcely more than one-seventh of the gross catch is consumed in the country, and that, in some years, the export has been fully equal to the year's take:—

	Barrels.		Barrels.
In 1816 to 1820, average export.....	95,850	In 1832, actual export.....	523,151
1821, actual export.....	269,197	1833 do.....	622,368
1822 do.....	237,355	1834 do.....	632,797
1823 do.....	298,409	1835 do.....	430,712
1824 do.....	172,231	1836 do.....	386,270
1825 do.....	244,508	1837 do.....	643,959
1826 do.....	260,912	1838 do.....	322,144
1827 do.....	359,459	1839 do.....	346,930
1828 do.....	450,906	1840 do.....	648,619
1829 do.....	347,870	1841 do.....	487,554
1830 do.....	260,095	1842 do.....	567,922
1831 do.....	416,870	1843 do.....	368,947