

Nova Scotia	\$ 8,763,779	36
New Brunswick.....	3 730,453	99
Quebec.....	1,694,560	85
British Columbia.....	1,358,267	10
Ontario	1,133,724	26
Prince Edward Island.....	1,085,618	68

Showing a total of.....\$17,766,404 24

Thirty-one different kinds of fish are classified and the value of their catch given in the *Blue Book* for last year. Cod, herring and lobsters constituted more than half in value of the whole; and after them come, in order, mackerel, salmon and haddock. Something like half a million dollars was realized from oysters and home-made sardines. Among lake fish, trout, white fish and pickerel show increased takes. The following table gives the quantity and value of the principal kind of fish, and whether greater or less than in 1883:

Description.	Quantity.	Value. Inc. or Dec.
Cod	1,022,234 cwt	\$1,302,454 —
Herring, pickled, smoked, frozen and fresh		2,645,447 +
Lobsters, preserved or alive....	22,063,283 lbs.	2,351,559 +
Mackerel.....	183,020 bbls.	1,826,681 +
Salmon, canned in ice, pickled, smoked or fresh		1,357,727 —
Haddock	216,544 cwt.	758,245 +
Trout	5,863,087 lbs.	464,653 +
Sardines.....	bbls. & bbls.	384,600 +
Smelt	6,177,410 lbs.	370,644 +
Pollock.....	78,635 cwt.	275,222 —
Whitefish	3,547,631 lbs.	271,971 +
Hake.....	40,073 cwt.	217,981 —
Alewives	47,674 bbls.	189,854 +
Oysters.....	41,956 brls.	126,418 —
Pickerel.....	1,771,071 lbs.	111,452 +
Halibut	1,670,210 "	98,532 +
Sturgeon.....	1,765,106 "	88,899 +
Eels.....	897,064 "	84,714 +
Bass.....	1,186,423 "	75,573 +
Shad.....	128,533 brls.	74,058 —

In addition to what are above enumerated, there are fresh water pike, perch, and maskinonge, and various ocean or coast varieties such as ling, squid, tomcod and whiting. Another item is "oolahans," a British Columbian name, fresh, pickled and smoked. The aggregate value of all these, however, is less than \$100,000. It seems to us desirable to make a distinction between fish and the other products of the fisheries or preparations from fish. We shall therefore make a separate list of skins, oils, &c., produced in 1884:

Fish oils, not assorted	583,883 gals.	\$376,826 —
Cod oil.....	83,891 "	41,695 —
Seal oil.....	50,070 "	25,035 —
Dog-fish oil, refined	45,000 "	24,800 +
Porpoise do.....	16,781 "	6,766 —
Whale oil.....	4,640 "	2,320 —
Seal skins (hair, fur and sea-otter)....		166,788 +
Fish guano	4,422 tons	66,330 +
Fish used for bait and manure		204,865 —
Coarse fish.....	45,227 brls.	198,726 +
Mixed fish.....		

Total.....\$1,114,161

There was an increase in 1884 in the value of the fish caught in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario, and a decline in the catch of the other Provinces. Referring to Nova Scotia, the report remarks:—"The returns show that the fisheries of this Province do not only maintain the improvement of the last few years, but they show a large increase over any former year. While this improvement embraces nearly all kinds of fish, it is most marked in cod, mackerel, herring, salmon and lobsters. The encour-

agement offered by the bounty has largely increased the number of vessels and boats engaged in the deep sea and shore fisheries." A most gratifying feature in the case of New Brunswick is the general improvement in the salmon fishery. Herring, smelt, lobsters, shad and alewives show increased catches. Schools of herring, it appears, are very erratic; "and while they never leave our coast, they change their *habitat* according to the location of their favorite food."

We are further told, with respect to Quebec, that the late date at which the ice left the Gulf in the spring of 1884, and the stormy weather which prevailed during the fishing season, caused a decrease in the catch of almost all kinds of fish. So, too, the unfavorable weather extended to the Straits of Northumberland, and affected the catch on Prince Edward Island shores. Returns from British Columbia show "a large decrease in the salmon catch of the Fraser River, where only six canneries out of thirteen were in operation. This result was not due to any scarcity of fish, but to the large quantity of preserved salmon on the market and the low prices obtained."

Compared with 1883, the value of fish taken in Ontario (all fresh, of course) was nearly ten per cent. larger, being \$1,133,724 as against \$1,027,032. The varieties, in order of value, were trout (\$404,545) whitefish (\$268,891) herring (\$152,245) pickerel, sturgeon, bass, maskinonge, pike and eels.

We have mentioned sealskins in one of the tables above. Most of these were the produce of British Columbia. About \$150,000 worth of fur seals and a few thousand dollars' worth of hair seals were taken in that province, and \$10,869 worth on the Labrador coast, province of Quebec, or perhaps upon the Magdalen Islands. The largest share of the 41,956 barrels of oysters was taken in Prince Edward Island waters. That province shows \$84,870 worth, New Brunswick \$35,553 worth, Nova Scotia and British Columbia the small remainder. Lobsters to the value of \$118,242 were taken in Quebec waters, \$520,398 in P. E. Island, \$812,637 in Nova Scotia, \$1,900,580 in New Brunswick.

The total expenditure for maintaining the Fishery Service during the financial year 30th June, 1884, amounted to \$116,531.66, as follows:—General service, \$69,011.06; Fish-breeding, \$27,585.02; maintenance of fisheries protection steamer *La Canadienne*, \$19,935.53. The amount of fishing bounty paid during the year was \$130,227, distributed among 902 vessels and 272 boats on our maritime coasts.

TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

The trade of this port so far as shown by the tables of imports and exports issued by the Board of Trade, amounted to \$1,181,681 last month, as compared with \$1,259,320 in May, 1884. Imports amounted to \$998,269 and exports of Canadian products to \$185,412. We append statistics of the values of principal articles:

IMPORTS.	May, '85	May, '84.
Cotton goods.....	\$ 87,672	\$ 76,647
Fancy goods.....	19,268	35,092
Hats and bonnets.....	14,198	21,170

Silk goods	19,484	33,480
Woollen goods	68,208	81,848

Total dry goods.....\$208,775 \$248,237

Although cotton goods show an increased import, no other item on the list of dry goods does so, and the total is \$40,000 less.

	May, '85.	May, '84.
Books, &c.....	35,646	37,670
Coal	83,515	92,209
Iron and steel goods.....	78,014	87,515
Leather goods.....	26,554	28,995
Jewellery	12,994	18,204
Paper goods.....	28,252	21,685

The decline is thus general in imports from abroad. As to exports, last month makes an improved showing in animals and field products as well as in manufactures. We give the totals below:

EXPORTS.

	May, '88.	May, '84.
The Forest.....	\$47,514	\$88,347
" Field	26,092	20,180
" Fisheries.....	240	
Animals, &c.....	82,739	28,517
Manufactures	28,291	22,261
Miscellaneous	536	658

\$185,412 \$159,958

—The earnings of the Quebec Bank for the year, after deducting management charges, were as nearly as possible ten per cent. on the paid capital. Six per cent. was divided, as usual, two per cent. appropriated for losses and the remainder is a substantial balance at credit of profit and loss. An increase of deposits is shown, but it is partly in the class which bears interest. The unsatisfactory condition of trade for the past year, referred to in the report, is in some degree reflected in the figures of the statement, for there is an increase in the bank's overdue debt, while it has found it desirable to take over more real estate or else to get security on it. This, presumably, refers mainly to the lumbering operations of the bank. We observe, further, that it has lessened its loans to other banks and considerably increased those "to corporations," while lessening discounts as a whole. The directors agree with the president of the Bank of Montreal that banking in Canada last year was difficult and precarious. But they consider themselves justified in expecting an improvement in business generally and greater activity in the timber trade and in other lines.

ONTARIO INSURANCE CO'S.

The Abstract Report of the Inspector of Insurance for Ontario for the calendar year 1884, has just been sent us. It contains a tabular summary of the statements made by insurance companies which annually report to the government of this province, and is subject to such correction hereafter as examination of the companies' books may show to be necessary. The list includes the London Life, which is a stock life company, the Queen City and Mercantile, which are stock fire companies, five fire insurance companies on the mutual-and-cash system viz., the Gore District, the Waterloo, the Hand-in-Hand, the Ontario, the Victoria and the Perth County, and fifty-five mutual fire insurance associations. Twenty of these fifty-five call themselves "Farmers'" companies, and one is the "Canadian Millers." To the first mentioned groups or to individual companies in them, we have had occasion to refer in former issues. But some of the results reached by the mutuals are well worth recapitulating.