

England, seven ships having cleared from Victoria for those ports, via Cape Horn, with canned salmon. About 24,000 cases were exported to Australia and a few hundred cases to South America.

This remarkable pack of salmon for the season of 1889 brings the exports of produce of the fisheries up to unusually large figures. In 1888 the pack amounted to 184,040 cases, in 1887 to 204,083 cases, in 1886 to 161,265 cases, in 1885 to 108,517 cases. In 1876, the first year in which a record is kept, the pack was 9,847 cases. Since that time there has been a steady increase, though the variations in the run of fish in different seasons has caused fluctuations in the figures of the annual pack. Of the pack of 1889 over 300,000 cases were put up at the Fraser River canneries, where sixteen canneries were in operation. The Skeena River came next with 58,165 cases, put up by six companies. On Rivers Inlet two companies operated, packing 25,704 cases. On Naas river three companies put up 19,410 cases, and one cannery at Alert Bay put up 7,140 cases.

The Dominion Government established a fish hatchery on the Fraser near New Westminster in 1885, mainly for the purpose of propagating the salmon, in order that the salmon canning industry might be kept up. That factory has done good work, and millions of salmon fry are now annually taken from the hatchery and deposited in favorable locations. The Government has also provided rules for the regulation of fishermen, with the object of preventing the depletion of the salmon fisheries.

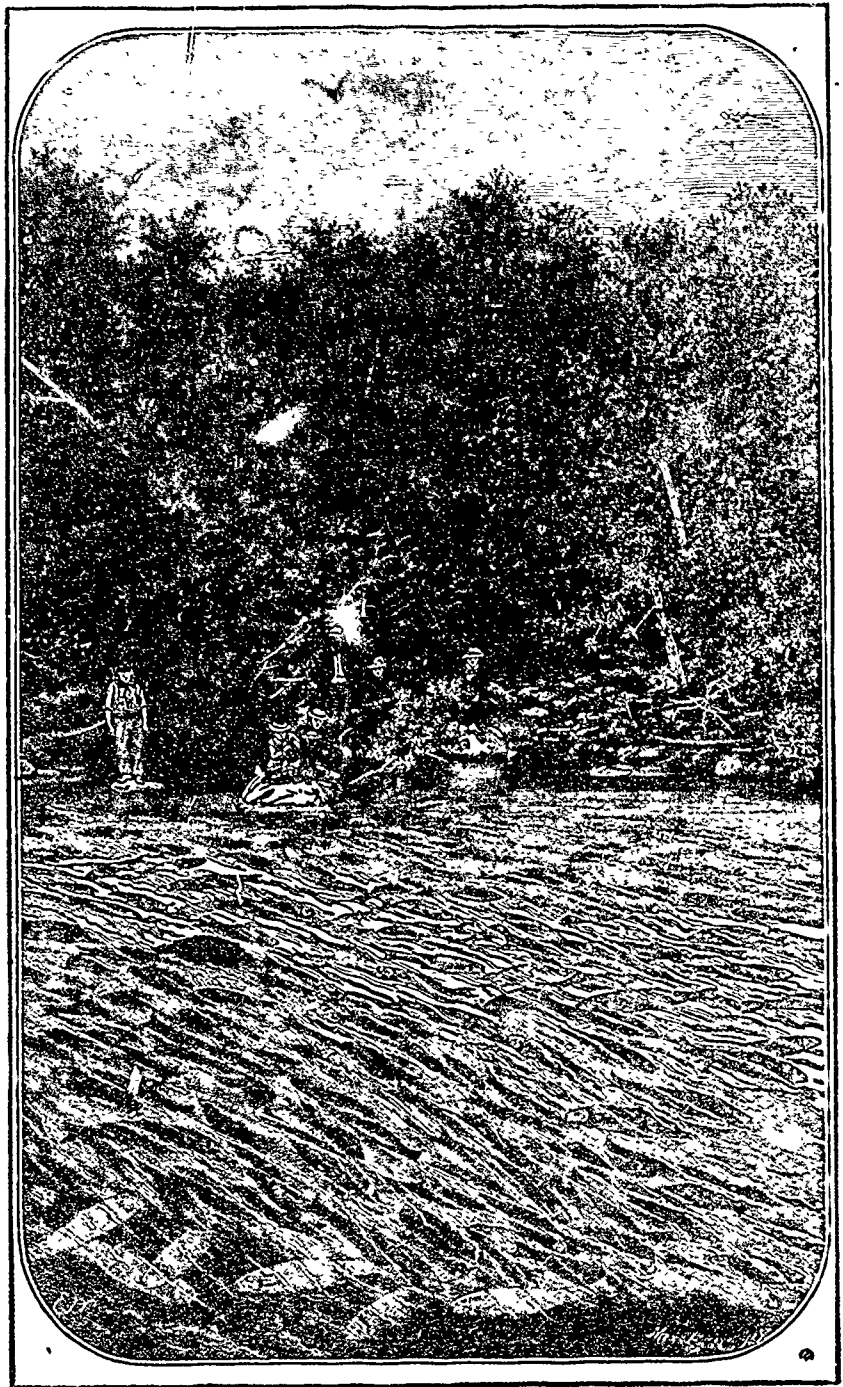
SEALING.

Following canned salmon, the next important item in the exports for 1889 under the head of fisheries, was the export of 35,000 seal skins, valued at \$245,000. The sealing industry is centred at Victoria, where a large number of ships annually market their catch of seal. The seal are taken all along the Pacific coast from Cape Horn and up into Behring Sea. Victoria had twenty four schooners engaged in sealing last season. This year the fleet has been increased to about thirty vessels. Two of them were purchased in the United States and entered as Canadian vessels. Between 600 and 700 men were engaged in the industry last year, over half of whom were Indians. In addition to the schooners owned in Victoria, quite a number of United States ships market their catch there. There are both fur and hair seal.

British Columbia has other

GREAT SOURCES OF FISHERY WEALTH besides salmon canning and sealing. Very little, however, has yet been done in the way of developing the deep sea and coast fisheries. The waters off the coast swarm with valuable food fish, which will yet add millions of dollars annually to the trade of the province. Some of the varieties of food fish which abound are: Halibut, herring, sturgeon, oolachans, trout, smelts, sardines, shad, cod of several varieties, skil, or black cod, clams, crabs, muscles, etc. There are also valuable oil-producing varieties of fish. The dog fish is taken by Indians to some extent for its oil. Last year 141,420 gallons of fish oil were marketed, valued at about \$70,000. Sea otter may also be classed in the list of marine life, and whale visit the coast in large numbers.

Outside of the salmon canning and sealing industry there has not been much done in the way of developing the fisheries. The exports for last year only include \$45,000 in addition to canned salmon and seal skins, and this item is



SALMON ASCENDING THE FRASER RIVER.

made up of fish in pickle. All the varieties of food fish mentioned are taken for the local trade, and some varieties are shipped eastward to Manitoba and the Territories, and even to Eastern Canada, in a fresh state. Salmon is the principal variety shipped in this way, and the fish for this purpose are taken mainly on the Fraser river. A small quantity of halibut, smelt, cod, etc., is also shipped eastward in a fresh state.

There is, however, vast room for extension of the industry all around. Though the waters swarm with whale at certain periods, these marine monsters are not molested. Whaling might be made a profitable industry. Curing the various food fishes for domestic and export trade should grow to a great industry, while the shipment of frozen and fresh fish is yet but a small item, compared with what it doubtless will be in the future.

Curiosities from Hudson's Bay.

C. N. Bell, president of the Historical Society, Winnipeg, is the owner of four "Tokens of Trade" coins used on the east coast of Hudson's Bay by the Hudson's Bay company in trading with the Indians. They are made of brass and vary in size, according to the value represented on the face, from a fifty-cent piece to ten cents. On one side appears the coat of arms with the inscription "pro Pelle Cuten." On the other appears the value of the token, and letters "H. B." and "M. B." (made beaver). All the trade on the east coast of the bay is conducted on the basis of "skins," each beaver-pelt representing so much value, as the silver money in this country.