

varying success. The seal fishery showed an improvement upon the past year notwithstanding that second trips of steamers have been discontinued; prices for both seal and cod oil ruled low, with no immediate prospect of a rise; but an increase in the value of seal skins enabled shippers to market the catch with satisfactory results. The shore codfishery, which for many years past has been only partially successful, cannot be said to show any signs of recuperation, but a most successful Bank fishery—fortunately a largely increasing proportion of the fishing industry of the Colony—and a fair catch on the Labrador, made up a total result considerably more favourable to the Colony than that of 1887.

The salmon fishery exhibits a continued decline, but the lobster packing industry shows a large expansion each year.

On an address of the Legislature the Government appointed in August 1887 a Fishery Commission to inquire into what was being done in other countries for the protection and development of the fisheries, with a view to the adoption of any methods that might be found suitable to the circumstances of the Colony. The Commission recommended as a first requisite the immediate appointment of a superintendent to take charge of all inquiries and experiments, and in September 1888 Mr. Adolph Neilson of Norway was appointed to that position. It is proposed to establish fish hatcheries in two or three of the large bays, with the view, if possible, of restocking the depleted inshore fishing areas with cod, salmon, and lobster, and the erection of one of those hatcheries will be the first work to be undertaken by Mr. Neilson.

#### *Labrador.*

There are no official returns of the exports of this Dependency of Newfoundland as there are no Custom Houses on the coast, but from statements made by shippers it is learnt that there were:—

|                                               |   |   |         |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|---|---------|
|                                               |   |   | \$      |
| 222,183 quintals cod fish exported, valued at |   |   | 755,422 |
| 13,570 barrels herring                        | - | - | 46,138  |
| 624 tierces salmon                            | . | - | 12,480  |
|                                               |   |   | <hr/>   |
|                                               |   |   | 814,040 |
|                                               |   |   | <hr/>   |

#### *Agriculture.*

Under the stimulus of the Act for the encouragement of agriculture considerable development was made in 1888 in the cultivation of the land. Three thousand and forty-three applicants availed themselves of the benefit of the Act, and cleared and broke up 1,794 acres, the bonus on which amounted to \$20,392. Under the Act 49 Vict. c. 3. an agricultural district was created near Dildo Pond, upon which about thirty families have been settled. These families have been assisted in building their houses and in procuring seed, and it is hoped that in a year or so they