

standing the high bounty offered by law, still command the same prices as in 1857.

It has also been authentically stated that fresh fish packed in ice was last season brought by rail from the coasts of the United States and laid down on Canadian fishing grounds for a less sum than the same fish could be there purchased for.

The Report of the Honorable the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the half year ending the 30th June last, says:—"The mercantile fisheries have not been so productive as usual." Since that time appeals to the benevolent have been made in many places to save suffering fishermen from starvation.

The principal objection to the Bill under consideration is that it contains no clause to prohibit in tidal waters the employment of fixed engines for the capture of fish. The fixtures used for this purpose on the shores of the St. Lawrence are "Stake nets" and "Brush weirs," both self-acting fixed engines which it will be established are ruinous to all inshore fisheries where their use is permitted,—they cause this injury by the capture of the breeding stock in undue quantities and beyond the supply; at the same time they turn entire shoals out of their course along the shore * as well as fence them off their natural breeding grounds—the fry of the larger kinds as well as the smaller fish are also destroyed by the weirs.

The stake net, which is of Scotch invention and used in Canada, is formed of strong netting attached to high stakes firmly driven into the soil, and runs from high to low water mark; it acts upon the principle of a leader against which the fish, seeking their rivers along the shore, strike, and are conducted downwards to a narrow opening, the entrance to a cage or cell, from which there is but little chance of escape. To render this engine more deadly a second leader is often added and extends at a right angle from the cell of the first, when the whole engine forms a figure in shape not unlike the letter "L." This second leader is terminated by another cell to which is sometimes appended a "gill net" which shoots from it into the deep water where it is kept stationary by anchorage so that fish which may have missed the entrance to the cells of the stake nets generally enmesh themselves in the gill net and there perish. A stake net with double cells and a gill net attached could be seen in full operation last season at the Tadousac. This machinery, by arresting the course of the fish, attracted a large whale with a flanking party of seals on each side to prey upon the straggling salmon.

The brush weirs are similar in height and operation to the stake nets but are formed of brush wood; they also contain at the lower end one or more cages in which fish of all kinds and sizes affecting the tide way are

*Russell on the Salmon, p. 362. Letter of R. A. O'Donnell to Mr. Lysaght, p. 8. Report of Committee, House of Lords.