

exported this year at 600,000 barrels, and multiply this by 4½ dollars, we obtain a sum of 2,700,000, dollars, which represents the minimum amount of foreign capital brought into the country by three months' successful fishings; of this sum about 170,000 dollars represent the portion that probably falls, this year, to the share of the native shipping.

In order to arrive at the annual money value to the country, of the herring fisheries. I will take the average export of the last few years, as well as the average price, and estimated extent of the home consumption; the result will be as follows:—

	Barrels.	Dollars.	Dollars.
Spring Herrings, yearly shipments.....	600,000	at 3	1,800,000
“ “ Home consumption.....	100,000	2	200,000
Summer Herrings, yearly shipments.....	200,000	4	800,000
“ “ Home consumption.....	100,000	2½	250,000
Pilchard Herrings.....	20,000	2	40,000
Anchovies (clupca sprattus), kegs.....	20,000	0½	10,000
			\$3,100,000

The shipping prices are taken as “free on board” in Norwegian harbours. To the above sum must be added the amount earned in freights, which cannot be less than 200,000 dollars, making a total of 3,300,000 dollars, as the annual value to the country of these fisheries alone, and which I believe to be underrated; for in some years, the export has reached as much as 900,000 barrels, and prices on foreign markets have gone up to 7 dollars per barrel.

It has attracted some attention in this country, that the British fisheries, which, it appears from the returns, were formerly on a par with those of Norway, should have exceeded them in produce during the last few years; this is attributed to the fact of the employment of a greater number of hands and nets to each boat.

Considerable entanglement and loss of gear took place; in one night, at Kinn, upwards of 2,000 nets were lost, of a value between 6,000 and 8,000 dollars. The inspectors' salvage account shows that the expense of recovering lost property amounted to 1,017 dollars 82 skillings, and that the produce of the sale thereof brought in 1,066 dollars 6 skillings. Fifty-five fines were inflicted for the following offences; they varied in amount between 1 and 100 dollars, and were of the following nature:—

- 24 for being at the fishing grounds at prohibited times.
- 3 for placing out seines at prohibited times.
- 2 for having gear in the water at prohibited times.
- 1 for having placed out gear over a seine's floats or marks.
- 2 for cutting other men's nets, without properly fastening them again.
- 1 for throwing out ballast contrary to regulation.
- 2 for proceeding to the fishing grounds in a craft having gear in tow.
- 9 for breaches of the peace.
- 11 for illegal sale of spirituous and malt liquors.

55 fines, amounting to 792 dollars, of which 672 dollars fell to the state, 70 dollars to the local poor boxes, and 72 dollars to the informers. The expense incurred by the state, for superintendence and extra judicial officers, was 8,758 dollars 53 skillings.

The fishings have, of late years, extended over a longer range of coast than formerly, and the want of proper lights and harbours of refuge has been much felt. The Government have now decided upon expending a certain sum of money for the purpose of remedying the evils their non-existence occasions; and when the works they have projected are completed (including a harbour of refuge at Udsire), it is expected that the produce of the fishery will be much increased. In the interest of the fisheries in general, they have likewise decided on extending the telegraphic wires to the Russian frontier, notwithstanding that this work will involve a large and unremunerative outlay, for the lines will pass through but few and unimportant towns, separated by large and sparsely populated tracts of country.

As far as I am aware, the application of the telegraphic wire in aid of the fisheries is peculiar to Norway; and as it is has already been of great utility in this respect, a few words concerning its operation may not be out of place in this Report. As I have already endeavoured to explain, the deep sea fisheries take place from the Naze to the Varanger