

## THE FISHERIES QUESTION.

### REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE.

THE Sub-Committee appointed in pursuance of the foregoing resolution, have the honour to report as follows :—

Your Sub-Committee have been unable to ascertain with exactness the extent of the interest of the British Provinces in the fisheries in the waters adjacent to their coasts. It is, however, stated in a paper laid before the Legislature of Nova Scotia (*Journals of House of Assembly, 1867, App. No. 18*), that a capital of from \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 is invested in those fisheries, and that they give employment to about 20,000 sailors. It is further stated by the same authority, that the mackerel and herring fisheries are almost wholly within the three-mile limit, and that the bait fishing is entirely in shore.

With respect to the extent to which fishing on the same coasts is carried on by the Americans, it is stated in a paper of the Canadian Legislature, entitled, "Return of Licences granted to American Fishermen, Ottawa, 1869," that "throughout the year 1866 about 800 American vessels have prosecuted fishing in various places around the sea-coasts, and in the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, many of them making two or more voyages."

The interests involved in the fisheries being thus of great value, it is necessary to consider in what manner the rights of British and American fishermen are regulated. Your Sub-Committee