

over the different stations and waters, with authority to treat summarily all disputes and offences in connection with the fisheries.

The following statement will show the character of the misdemeanors for which fines were inflicted, viz:—

- 1 for breach of the peace.
- 6 for fishing without proper boat-marks.
- 110 for drawing their nets before the morning signal, and placing them out before the evening signal.
- 18 for using illegal gear.
- 2 for injury to other men's gear.
- 4 for leaving gear out on the Sunday.

141, total number levied, amounting to 349 dollars, of which 328 dollars fell to the State, and the remainder to the local poor-box.

No Government superintendence is exercised at the other fisheries.

The expense incurred by the State in superintending and keeping order at the Loffodens amounted, this year, to 8,457 dollars 69 skillings.

An attempt has been made this year to bring into use the boats used in the south of Norway, called the Lister boat, (resembling the Norwegian pilot-boats about the Naze and entrance of the Christiania Fjord, *i. e.*, one-masted, long, open boat, with jib, fore, and mainsail,) with a view to supersede the antiquated "Nordland boats," now almost exclusively used, and which, in form, resemble the old Roman galley, having only one lug sail, reefed from the bottom.

A large Lister boat was provided, in size and capability as large as any now used at the fishery, bearing 36 nets, and capable of carrying 18,000 fish, and of keeping the sea in ordinary weather. In order to induce the men to use a boat, to them of so novel a description, the Inspectors were obliged to guarantee them a certain payment, in case their catch should prove unproductive. This eventuality, however, did not arise. The new boat proved itself seaworthy, and appropriate for the work it had to do, so much so that it was sent afterwards to the Finmark fishery, where it also worked successfully; and from the experience thus acquired, there is reason to believe that the Lister boat will gradually replace the ill-adapted constructions now in use. A trial was also made, this year, with the "synke net," (sinking or submerged net,) but with a much larger and more expensive one of a new construction. It was fished with during 27 days by 29 men, and the result was a total take of 36,000 fish, valued, with the livers, at 3,000 dollars, a result sufficiently good to justify further trials.

It has hitherto been believed that both the cod and herring, at stated times, seek the neighbourhood of the land to deposit their ova, which they do at the bottom of the ocean, and that the yield of the fisheries in great measure depended upon the suitability of the localities they choose for this purpose; and the irregular produce has accordingly been attributed to disturbing causes which disquieted the spawn, and interfered with its due development. In many cases the disturbance has been attributed to human agencies, which it became of importance to investigate and control.

When the recent legal enactments for the better regulation of the saltwater fisheries of this country were under discussion, arguments were adduced in favor of the complete or partial prohibition of the use of certain nets and gear, which it was presumed interfered with the development of the young fry.

The use of trawl nets was especially considered baneful to the herring fishery, as in drawing them the spawning grounds were swept, and the ova supposed to be disturbed and destroyed; and with respect to the cod, the casting of the net in the early stages of the fishing was believed to stay the rising of the fish and their subsequent spawning.

Science now appears to have arrived at a different conclusion, so far at least as the spawning of the cod and mackerel tribes is concerned.

The Norwegian Government, for some years, have annually expended a certain sum of money for the purpose of investigating the habits of the cod, and for obtaining information with a view to improve and develop the fisheries of Nordland and Finmark; and last year a Commission was named for the purpose of collating this information, and proposing suggestions for a revision of the laws regulating the deep-sea fisheries.