

## SMELTS.

These fish are being used in greater numbers than ever, and owing to the scarcity of oolachans, the demand is increasing. They are caught in seines in salt water at nearly all seasons of the year, but at present no export trade is done in them.

## SARDINES.

The quantities consumed fresh and salted increases every season, but so far no one has thought fit to can them. The objection appears to be the high price of labor and the expensive outfit required for this business.

## STURGEON.

The demand for this fish in local markets seems to be increasing; large numbers being shipped to Victoria and Vancouver and to towns on Puget Sound and the interior. I have had numerous enquiries with a view of opening up a trade in the manufacture of caviar but as yet no one has made it his regular business to catch them. The fish taken for market are usually caught with hook and line by natives and in salmon nets by local fishermen. The Fraser is the only river in this Province where sturgeon are caught in any quantity. They appear to have no regular time for spawning, as they are caught full of ova a long distance up river, and in the same condition during the months of May and June on the sand heads. It is estimated that only every tenth fish taken in the Fraser River is found to contain eggs. I am of opinion that the same objection exists here to opening up a caviar business as on the Columbia River.

## MARINE FURS.

This season's catch of hair-seal approximated about the same as last year; they are not taken by white hunters for commercial purposes and only for local consumption by the Indians. The demand is therefore limited.

The catch of sea otter increased by 25 skins; this is owing to an increased catch in Behring Sea.

The returns show 21 walrus skins and 250 pounds of ivory; this is not a product of our coast, but was brought from the Arctic Ocean by one of our vessels and marketed in the Province.

The catch of fur seals this season shows a decrease as compared with that of last year of 5,817 skins. The following return contains detailed accounts of the number of vessels employed and skins taken.