

PRELIMINARY REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

The Honourable JAMES C. POPE,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries :

SIR,—The following preliminary Report on the Fisheries Service of Canada consists chiefly of accounts of expenditure and receipts, and tables of exports and imports of fish, during the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1878; including, also, a condensed statement of the approximate value of the Canadian Fisheries for the calendar year. The description of operations in the artificial propagation of fish, embraces the number of young fish raised and distributed from the deposits of 1877, and the quantities of ova laid down in the course of last fall, which are now in process of hatching.

The loss of the steamer *Lady Head* which was engaged in protecting the Gulf fisheries, is briefly referred to.

Some correspondence is also published explaining what has been done since the date of my last Report regarding sawdust and mill-rubbish.

The statements of the various Fishery Officers, showing the condition, yield and value in detail of the Canadian Fisheries for the past year are not yet completed. A full report of the year's transactions, with the usual Appendices, is in course of preparation, and will be submitted as soon as possible to Parliament.

VALUE OF CANADIAN FISHERIES.

It is satisfactory to state that the Canadian fisheries are still improving. Their produce compares favourably with the preceding year's returns. In 1877, it was valued at \$12,029,957; and in 1878, at \$13,373,486, being an increase of nearly one and a-half millions of dollars. This was principally in the cod, mackerel, salmon and lobster fisheries.

FISH TRADE.

The statements herewith, compiled from the Trade Returns, show that the value of fish exported was \$6,929,366, against \$5,874,360 in 1877, being an increase of \$1,055,006. The value of fish imported into the Dominion, and entered for domestic consumption, was \$1,300,468, against \$1,360,350 in 1877, or a decrease of \$66,882.