

Note.—The take by vessels other than Canadian is not computed in this table.

Square and manufactured timber is exported in large quantities from the different ports of the coast of Gaspé. There is also found an abundance of wood of the best quality for ship-building purposes. The lands in the district of Gaspé are composed of a light but fertile soil, producing all kinds of grain and vegetables. There are millions of acres of those lands which are still in the wild state, and covered by beautiful forests.

The population of the District of Gaspé and of the north coast of the Rivor and Gulf of St. Lawrence is 32,000 souls.

The District of Gaspé alone could contain and support a population of more than 100,000.

The Inland Lakes and Rivers abound in fish.

The Fisheries in Canada are as yet in a state of infancy.

The merchantable fish products derived from the Lakes and Rivers from Upper Canada consist chiefly of White-fish, Salmon, Salmou-Trout, Herring, Lake-Trout, Speckled-Trout, Sturgeon, Pickerel, Bass, Muscalonge, &c. Inferior kinds also abound in the smaller lakes, tributaries, and streams.

The extensive area, great depth, clear cold waters, abundant feeding banks, shoals and spawning grounds, of the principal Upper Canadian Lakes, render the fish found therein numerous, of good quality, and of large size.

The annual take of the different species of fish is carefully estimated at \$380,000 value.

This produce is variously disposed of by export, fresh and cured, in the neighbouring United States, and for domestic sales and consumption.

Ready markets are found both at home and abroad for any seasonable catch.

Tracts of cultivable land bordering on the great Lakes are still disposable for settlement.—*Montreal Gazette.*

—A correspondent of the *N. Y. Times* under date of February 1st, writes from Quebec as follows:

The Legislature of Canada passed a Fishery Act, about two years since, for the regulation, protection, and encouragement of the inland as well as the Gulf fisheries, and two Superintendents of Fisheries were appointed—one for Upper one for Lower Canada, each with a staff of suitable overseers, &c. The Upper Canadian official has made but little progress in his duties; the Lower Canadian a great deal. But I wish, in this present letter, not to treat of the subject of fisheries generally, so much as to describe the method of artificially breeding salmon adopted by the Lower Canada Superintendent, Richard Nettle, Esq., of Quebec.

In a large room, well ventilated in summer and sufficiently warmed in winter, is a tank, about eight feet by twelve, divided into two main compartments—one deep, the other shallow. The latter is again subdivided into three divisions of different depths, from six inches to about one. Water from the city pipes—which is supplied from Lake St. Charles, up in the mountains, eighteen miles away—is kept constantly flowing into this tank, with the proper contrivances for preventing any sudden stoppage of the supply. The shallow parts of this, the ovarium, are floored with sand and stones, in imitation of a river's bed. The deep part has only a few pieces of rock at the bottom.

Salmon spawn in September, and at that time the female fish are taken with nets from the neighbourhood of their spawning-beds. A very gentle pressure makes them shed their ova into a pail to the number of perhaps 20,000 each, and a single male fish then suffices for the impregnation of a pailful of spawn, which is then very carefully brought to the ovarium and placed in the shallow compartments above described.

When first taken, the spawn is of a yellow colour, each little egg being of the size of a small pea, and semi-transparent. Close observation detects a little reddish spot on one part of the ovum. In a short time, this spot, which is where the impregnation occurred, grows larger and deeper in colour, while the ovum gets more and more opaque. In December, the rudimentary fish can be seen, curled up within the skin of the egg. In January, the black spots become visible—the eyes of the embryo. Towards the end of February, the little fish bursts from its confinement. Last year, the first of the spawn completed these transformations in 113 days.

When the salmon thus make their appearance, they are almost like small tadpoles, or bullheads, in form, and lie quiet among the stones for a few days until they become more shapely. Then they become lively, and rush about the tank briskly. A fly, thrown upon the water, brings a host of them up to the surface, eager for their prey. They grow but little for several months, none becoming longer than one's finger. But if these little creatures are then put into a river, they will make their way downwards into the sea, grow with surprising rapidity in salt water, and return to the same river next year weighing from four to seven pounds.

The advantages of breeding salmon artificially are several, but it is sufficient to mention one or two. When the spawn is deposited in the rivers, it may remain barren. If it escapes this danger, the trout and other fish eagerly seek for it, and they even say that large trout will follow the female salmon at spawning time in expectation of a meal. If the eggs do, in time, give forth small fry, these have to run the gauntlet of innumerable perils before they reach the sea and grow to a sufficient size to be careless of other enemies than man and the salmon-eating otter. Thus, perhaps 99 per cent, of the spawn—certainly 90—is destroyed.

By artificially breeding, that quantity lives. Mr. Nettle's experimental tank now contains about 5,000 spawn, and all are in a forward state.

Nor is fish-breeding likely to remain a mere experiment in Canada. Three large lakes, Megantic, St. Francis and Louisa, have just been leased for nine years to a Mr DeCourtenay, a French gentleman, who lived a long time in Italy, and was President of the Fishery Company of the Lago Maggiore. Mr. DeC. will bring hither some of his old Italian employées, spend several thousand dollars in erecting and managing apparatus for artificially propagating salmon in one lake, sturgeon in another, and some other fish in the third, and, when they are well grown, catch, and send them to New York, Boston, Montreal, &c., fresh, and to the West Indies, Brazil, &c., barreled.

Another step has been accomplished, during the year just expired, towards the development of the mine of riches our waters may be made to afford. (1) Captain Fortin, the commander of a revenue cutter, *La Canadienne*, was instructed to lay down small seed-oysters, obtained at Caraquette, at different places in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He has done so. Next year the operation will be renewed, to see how far up the great river oyster beds can be formed. It is contemplated to make an experiment at the mouth of the Saguenay River, and thus to add another attraction to the many which cluster around that delightful spot.

—Man shews his courage in many ways. He rushes to the field of battle to meet death, he hazards his life in a frail bark on a tempestuous ocean; as a student he passes his days in an obscure garret, working out the solution of some deep problem; the advocate of some great and noble work we behold him braving the prejudices, the suspicions and the calumnies of those around him. But what shall we say, how can we characterize the courage of the man who indulges in the adulterated liquors of this country, without the consolation even of their procuring him an easy mode of death. Dr. Hiram Cox, inspector in Cincinnati, happening to be in a tavern of low standing, was eye witness of the following fact; two men called for some brandy, and while swallowing it the tears literally rolled down their cheeks. Being curious to know the composition of a compound which could produce so powerful an effect, Dr. Cox analysed the beverage and found it to contain only 17 parts of alcohol, instead of 40, the proper proportion; the other 83 parts being made up of sulphuric acid, cayenne pepper, caustic, potassa and strychnine. A pint of this mixture would be sufficient to kill the most determined toper. Dr. Cox states in his report, that of 400 lunatics he had examined, he found at least 250 whose alienation was due to excessive drinking. Among these he observed a youth of seventeen whose condition was the result of a single fit of intoxication produced by adulterated liquors. Dr. Cox has inspected 700 taverns of various classes and found that the nine-tenths of the liquor therein retailed were adulterated. He says, that to his own knowledge nineteen young men of respectable families had been killed in the space of three months, by the use of these poisons. They are equally fatal to persons of a more advanced age, who use them even in moderation; in less than three months *delirium tremens* opens their tomb.—*Courier des Etats-Unis.*

(1) Mr. Fortin acts as Commissioner of the Government for the protection of the fisheries and the preservation of peace in the several parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He had recommended in one of his valuable yearly reports the operations which he has been allowed to make for the formation of oyster beds. (Ed. J. of E.)

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