

“ There are three whaling expeditions now in action in the waters of British Columbia, viz :

“ 1st. The British Columbia Whaling Company, with the *Kate* a schooner of seventy tons, outlay \$15,000. They have already secured 20,000 gallons ; they expect 10,000 more. The value of oil here is 37 cents a gallon. In England it is worth £35 a tun of 252 gallons. This company have in addition secured already 30,000 gallons of dog-fish oil, worth 37 cents here per gallon, 55 cents in California, and £35 a tun in England.

“ 2nd. The brig *Byzantium*, 179 tons, expenditure \$20,000. Their take for the year is not known.

“ 3rd. Steamer *Emma* and scow *Industry*, expenditure \$10,000 estimated take 15,000 gallons.

“ This coast is considered by an old whaler from Providence to be one of the best fields in the world from whence to start whaling enterprises. Particular attention is called to the value and facility of the dog-fish oil fishery, which is even a more paying undertaking, at present, than the whaling.”

In Columbia salmon is most abundant, and constitutes one of the principal sources of wealth in the country. It is sold at a very low price—five cents a pound—at Victoria, and constitutes an important part of the food of the Indians. There are five species, a description of which is contained in an extract from the Reverend Dr Brown's pamphlet on British Columbia, printed at foot.

#### DETAILS RESPECTING THE FISHERIES.

As this branch of industry, the fisheries, was so little developed, I obtained from a gentleman who is, from his studies, in a position to give me correct information on this subject, a memorandum which, though short, gives more details than it was possible for me to obtain from official documents. It is as follows :—

“ In speaking of the fisheries of British Columbia, one may almost be said to be speaking of something which has no existence. With the exception of a small attempt at putting up salmon in tins on the Fraser River, and one or two whaling enterprises of a few years' standing, no attempt whatever has been made to develop the actually marvellous resources of this Province in the way of fish. I will, therefore, proceed to give a list of the fish that are to be found in quantities that would warrant the establishment of fisheries, and then a brief description of the habits, locality, and commercial utility of each class of fish, with any remarks that may occur that would be of interest or value.

“ Description of fish found in British Columbia and Vancouver Island :—Whale, sturgeon, salmon, oulachan or houlican, cod, herring, halibut, sardine, anchovy, oysters, haddock, and dog-fish.

“ There is no law governing fish in British Columbia. Fishing is carried on throughout the year without any restrictions. This state of things is well suited to a new and thinly populated country. The restrictions of a close season would be very injurious to the Province at present, and for many years to come.

“ It is quite impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the produce of the fisheries during the last ten years, there being no data from which it could be computed.

“ There is no local law preventing Americans fishing in our waters.

“ *Whale*.—I am unable to say whether the whales are sperm, or of what species, but an undertaking, now some three years old, seems from all accounts (it has been found impossible to obtain any official return from the company) to have been very successful. That it is a profitable speculation there can be no doubt, or it would have been long ago abandoned ; and that the company have no difficulty in obtaining whales is also demonstrated by the amount of oil secured. I have little doubt that if this branch of industry were followed up by men well versed in the requisite knowledge, a vast amount of wealth might be added to this Province by whale fisheries.