

REPORT

ON

CANADIAN FISHERIES.

To the Honorable A. J. SMITH,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

SIR,—In reporting on the produce and condition of the Fisheries of Canada, and the state of the Fisheries Service in connection therewith, during the season of 1875, attention is respectfully drawn to certain facts and suggestions concerning this important branch of Canadian industry.

PRODUCE AND CONDITION OF CANADIAN FISHERIES.

The total value of fish products in 1874 was \$11,681,886. That for 1875 is somewhat less. A tabular statement is in course of preparation, which will show in detail the various kinds and quantities of fish caught in each Province, and their values. This table is so arranged as to admit of easy comparison of each detail with similar details published in 1874, in order that local increase and decrease in the quantity and value of different kinds of fish in the respective districts may be readily understood. This detailed comparison will explain (what might otherwise be difficult to understand) that, while there is some difference in the general value of the produce of the fisheries last year, it is reasonably accounted for, and to some extent compensated by sectional advances, and a fair average of prosperity.

Owing to the circumstances that such information comprises an account of fishing operations to the end of the past year, a large proportion of which occupies the fall season, and that returns from numerous and remote districts are procured with much difficulty and require careful revision, the compilation of these materials necessarily delays any full report on the most interesting and valuable features of this service. I beg, therefore, to recommend that the present summary of official transactions be printed for early submission to Parliament, to be followed by a more complete report with statistics as soon as possible.