

Nova Scotia to the fishermen this year—allowing it in quantity to equal that of last year—figured at present prices will barely exceed four millions of dollars, while last year it yielded over eight millions of dollars. This four millions of dollars which is expected will probably be realized on this year's fishery catch, if divided between owners and crews, as is the custom of settling up fishing trips in the Provinces—half of the value of the stock to the owners for vessels, boats, and outfits, and the remainder to the crews—the fishermen of Nova Scotia and of the Island of Cape Breton numbering thirty thousand (30,000) on the sea would have at the end of the season less than eighty (80) dollars to each.

From all these circumstances it can be readily understood, and it cannot but be admitted that our hardy toilers of the sea—the fishermen—are suffering under great disadvantages, and show the necessity in the public interest that something should be done by the Government as soon as possible to ameliorate their condition, and in assisting them in bridging their great losses which are now being made on account of the barriers and restrictions which are placed on the products of their industry entering the United States.

In this connection, and with a view of assisting the Government in devising a scheme for the remuneration of the fishing classes, I most respectfully offer for your consideration some ideas that have presented themselves to my mind of the source from which a remuneration fund can be obtained, and its equitable distribution among the fishermen, which were as follows:—

The Dominion Government received from the United States, through the hands of the Imperial Government some years ago, the sum of \$1,500,000, which was our share of the amount awarded by the "Halifax Fishing Commission" for compensation in allowing American fishermen the privilege (under the "Washington Treaty") of prosecuting the sea-coast fisheries of the British Provinces in common with our fishermen. This large sum the Government had in their possession for four years previous to their granting and distributing the fishing bounty, and if interest was figured upon it for that period of time, it would have increased nearly one million of dollars, compound interest, making a total fund of \$5,500,000.

It cannot but be cordially admitted that that sum with interest as a fund belongs to the fishermen, and to no other class in Canada. That point needs no discussion. The Government and the Parliament of the country, the highest authority in the land admitted, determined and declared that ownership on the floors of the "House of Commons" during the session of 1881 and 1882 when they voted without dissent \$150,000 a year, a portion of the interest, as a bounty for annual distribution among the fishermen. I would say therefore that the Cabinet would be eminently justified, and it would only be in accord with the verdict previously given in Parliament, in their now appropriating say about \$800,000, or such sum as would be considered commensurating Canadian fishermen.

An appropriation of such a sum judiciously distributed to the fishermen proportionate to their several losses would help them considerably. I am sure such a distribution, with the object in view of recouping those interested in prosecuting our fisheries, would have the approval of Parliament and the country. It could not well be otherwise, more particularly as it could not be said that it was made at the expense or taken from the pockets of the taxpayers.

In respect to the amount of the duties which are being collected, since 1st July last, from off our fishing products entering the United States, I believe if an official application is made for refunding it, Congress when it next meets, will return every dollar so collected. For the American Government to do otherwise, in view of our having continued to them for this season the use of our valuable fisheries, would be to say the least, unreasonable and unjust, and a reflection on the honor of the people of a great nation. The sum of the duties so collected, when refunded by the United States, will help in some measure to recoup the fund of the "Fishing Award" for the amount of the appropriation made for distribution to the fishermen.

Should the Government consider making such an appropriation for distribution to the fishermen, I would propose that it should be expended on the plan which is, I may say, the invariable and universal custom of settling up fishing trips and voyages in the Provinces, i. e., half of the value of the stock to owners for providing vessels, boats and outfits, and the remainder to the crews; and the proportion to which each vessel, boat and individual members of their crews will be entitled, can be determined from this year (1885) bounty applications, which will be in possession of the fishery branch of your department later on in the season. These applications will show the quantities and specialties of sea fish taken during the season in the Provinces for each vessel and boat respectively, besides giving the names of the owners, and those of their crews. It will not therefore be a difficult task in arriving at and determining the value of their several claims. The papers of application for bounty will assist the department in that particular very considerably, showing as they do, the catches for vessels and boats respectively. The total value of the catch so shown will serve as a base for calculation, from which can be figured the relative proportion due to each. The following will speak for itself:—

If the value of the whole catch amounting to a certain sum, earn a certain sum (the appropriation) what share should the value of the stock of a certain vessel or boat receive? and so on for the remaining vessels and boats.

In the connection of settling up fishing trips between owners and their crews, I omitted mentioning that those of the fishermen who are on wages, are not entitled to a share. The share which they would have drawn if otherwise shipped, the owner or owners receive it in lieu of their having paid wages. I would say therefore that in the form for bounty application, which is possible, will soon be issued, I would suggest in having them printed, that the department direct that an extra column be added, under the head of "Whether on Shares or Wages." If for no other purpose, it would serve in giving additional statistical information.

In conclusion I may say, incidentally, that the fishing vessel owners, and the fishermen generally, are of opinion that the Government are to blame, and are wholly responsible for the non-renewal of the treaty—a state of affairs—which causes them to lose on this year's catch of fish, hundreds of thousands of dollars. And from the meagre information vouchsafed so far to the public on the subject, it is difficult to have them think otherwise.

Great Britain and Canada were officially notified by the American Government in 1883, in effect that the "Washington Treaty" would terminate on the 1st July, 1885. This surely was a timely and sufficient notice, and it cannot be said therefore that we were taken by surprise. Two years notice to an ordinary business man would certainly be considered ample and sufficient to have allowed him to negotiate a renewal of the treaty, or in its absence, one infinitely better, giving broader commercial relations between both countries.

I have been informed from a reliable source that the Washington authorities when issuing the notice had no intention whatever of abrogating the treaty obligations subsisting, with a view of embarrassing the fish trade of Canada. Their principal reason for doing so was their dissatisfaction with the ruling of the "Halifax Fishing Commission," which compelled them to pay to the Imperial Government five and one-half million dollars for the privilege of their people participating in the sea coast fisheries of the British Provinces. That sum, for the privilege of fishing in our waters, in addition to admitting our fishery products to their markets free of duty, they considered to be unreasonably excessive, and so as to be relieved from having any further to continue the money obligation, and to allow of negotiations being opened up for an entirely new treaty was the reason which prompted them to give the notice.

Trusting that this subject of giving remuneration to the fishermen will have the earliest and most serious consideration of yourself and colleagues in the Government.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. MACKASEY.

THE CANADIAN CLUB AT NEW YORK.

It is now six months since William I. Ellison undertook to bring together Canadians in and about New York, and to encourage a greater degree of intimacy among them. The enterprise met with immediate approbation at the hands of such Canadians as Mr. Ellison was able to reach, and steps were at once taken, which resulted in the organization of the Canadian Club. Mr. Erastus Wiman, who represents the apex monument of Canadian success in New York, became greatly interested in the matter, and gave it his hearty assistance, which did much tending to insure the success the Club has attained. Mr. Wiman was the unanimous choice for the presidency of the Club, which position he accepted and now occupies. The other officers are as follows:—Vice-Presidents, Sir Roderick W. Cameron and Hon. L. S. Huntington; Treasurer, William B. Ellison; Secretary, William Allaire Shortt; Executive Committee, Erastus Wiman, Hon. L. S. Huntington, William B. Ellison, William Allaire Shortt, Thomas W. Griffith, Dr. G. C. Brown, Dr. S. R. Ellison, and Hugh M. Morrow; and the Membership Committee, Dr. R. B. Cummings, Ontario; G. M. Fairchild, Quebec; Henry R. Smith, New Brunswick; Arnold J. Gates, Nova Scotia, and M. W. Meagher, Manitoba. The constitution of the Club provides for two classes of members, viz: Resident and Non-resident. The fees are very low, and no one is restrained from the privileges of the Club on the question of the cost, the entrance fee for both classes being \$5.00, and the annual dues for Resident members \$10.00, and Non-resident members \$5.00. The Club has been fortunate in securing very pleasant quarters, at No. 3 North Washington Square, facing the Park, having large rooms admirably suited to the purpose, in an excellent neighborhood and a central position, within easy reach of the elevated and surface railroads. The rooms have been well furnished, and supply a long felt want in New York, namely, a place where the many Canadians in and about the city can meet each other and be surrounded with associations, to some degree at least Canadian. The Club now offers among its attractions a good restaurant, billiard room, reading room, card room and a very handsome large reception room. Many of the Canadian newspapers are on file, and more are wanted, in consequence of which, the Club offers to publishers the privileges of Non-resident membership in exchange for their publications. Facilities are offered for correspondence, and members may have their mail sent to the rooms where it will be looked after until called for. There is in attendance a competent man who will give all information relative to Canadians in New York, railroad rates and times, theatres, places of interest, hotels, cabs, etc. Two hundred members have already been elected, and many applications are pending; among the Non-resident members are noticeable Sir Jno. A. Macdonald, Hon. Edward Blake, Sir Alexander Campbell, Hon. Joseph A. Chapleau, Sir Adolph P. Caron, Hon. Donald A. Smith, Hon. A. S. Hardy, Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Louis Senecal, Goldwin Smith, Sir William P. Howland, James Beatty, M. P., J. Herbert Mason, J. S. Brierley, John Wilkinson, Frank E. Hodgins, T. G. Mason, C. W. Taylor, James V. Wright, J. W. Gregory, William Carey, H. P. Moore, R. A. Porteous, John R. Shaw, Wm. H. Pittard, David B. Dewar, W. H. Howland, Col. C. S. Gzowski, J. Ross Robertson, John Martin, R. M. Jaffroy, James W. Digby, James P. Murray, Geo. Watt, Hugh Scott, Thomas W. Dyas, Andrew Pattullo, Geo. R. Pattullo, James Hay, Jr., Edgar C. Baker, W. H. Hender and C. F. Fraser.

There will be a great rage in London this winter for buttons for ladies' costumes. Big before, they will now be immense. Some of them will be very costly. Ladies will also patronize walking sticks again—also costly of course. Both buttons and walking sticks will hail from Japan.