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of mackerel shows a decrease of 3,057 barrels, while the number of barrels of oysters raked during the season exceeded that of 1886 by 3,323 barrels.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

The fisheries of Manitoba continue to attract greater attention as the country opens up. The total catch of fish for home and export trade is valued at \$129,084, and if the consumption by the Indian population, which is estimated at 1,500,000 pounds, be added to the above, this would give an aggregate catch of all kinds of fish of nearly 5,000,000 pounds.

The fishing resources of the North-West Territories are as yet so little known and so little developed that it is almost impossible to give anything like approximate data of their yield and value. A very imperfect estimate made by Overseer Gilchrist, of the Qu'Appelle District, puts the yield at \$10,824, which is known to be much under the real figures. Special attention is called to this officer's report, published in the appendices.

The inspector reports that the laws relating to sawdust and mill rubbish were generally well observed. Four fishways were built during the season, and fishing weirs removed which had been placed across the streams by Indians.

Some apprehension being felt in various quarters that the fisheries of Lake Winnipeg will give out, it may not be out of place to state here that not more than fifty miles of these waters are being fished so far, while the lake is over 300 miles in length and on the average 50 miles wide. Although fish may be scarce at times; this in itself should not be taken as an indication that the fishing industry is depleting the supply to an undue extent. The present fishery regulations ought to be ample guard against any depletion for many years to come. If experience should prove to the contrary, more stringent regulations, and a curtailment of the industry will become a necessity. In addition to a close season of five weeks during the spawning period, seine and gill-net fishing alone are allowed, while the mesh of whitefish gill-nets must be at least five inches extension measure, thus securing the escape of all young or immature fish.

FISHERY OFFICERS' REPORTS.

Special attention is called to the tables published in the appendices to this report, as well as to the reports of the inspectors and large staff of fishery officers employed under this Department.