

and Labrador were valued at \$73,491, including 183,253lbs. of fresh salmon valued at \$12,349, or nearly seven cents per pound, while in 1904 the exports were valued at \$75,332.

This large and increasing industry is now operated by about sixty British factories, employing nearly 500 men. In 1903 no less than 30,596 cases, valued at \$397,952, were exported. Each legalized lobster packer operates along a specified strip of the coast varying from one-and-a-half to fourteen miles in length, and from which all others are excluded. Illicit canning is, however, so profitable that it has been found impossible to stamp it out, and large numbers of residents along the coast are engaged in it. Practically all the lobster which is exported is caught in the usual lobster trap, but they are so plentiful that a lobster can be obtained at any time from most of the wharves by "spearing" with a pointed pole.

THE LOBSTER CANNERIES.

Any one who has visited our shores and bays must (as already mentioned on page 7) have been impressed by the large number of whales which may be seen, but the whale fishery as an established industry is the growth of the last ten years. Although even now only operated from a few factories, its growth has been phenomenal and the profits to the few engaged in it have been larger than from any branch of the fishing industry in the world. Its growth is shown in the fact that it increased from \$1,581 in 1897-8, to \$15,606 in 1898-9, and that since then each year has about doubled the record of the previous year. In 1904 it amounted to \$356,176. Twelve whaling stations are in actual operation and licences for others have been granted.

The whales caught belong to the sulphur-bottom, hump-back, and fin-back tribes, the latter sometimes exceeding seventy feet in length. Views 108 and 109 show the carcass and head of hump-back whales in Notre Dame Bay, while view 58 shows a whaling station at Balaena.

The whales are shot from a harpoon discharged from a gun, and are so plentiful that when a whale is required, the steamer puts out and brings in its quarry to the factory as surely, easily, and safely as a butcher would secure a sheep from the pen.

The harpoon is secured to a cable and the dying whale is gradually hauled to the ship's side by a steam winch. The glamour and danger of the Greenland whale fisheries is not present here, but the profits are greater and the only fear is that the seas may become denuded of this valuable asset through a too indiscriminate destruction of this slow-breeding mammal.

The whale-fat is worked up for oil, while its body, which was formerly allowed to rot or float about until devoured by fish, is now almost entirely worked up as guano. Whalebone is also exported, but a considerable portion is converted into guano. In 1904, \$29,557 worth of whalebone was exported. It is indeed probable that ere long the meat will be converted into extracts and other articles of food which, if properly prepared, should be decidedly cheap and yet wholesome.

This industry, which comes next in importance after the cod-fishery, has only been prosecuted with any energy during the last hundred years. The returns are extremely variable. In 1903 the value of the catch was \$755,700, and in 1904, \$561,964, but "lean years" are so frequent that the fishery is by no means so profitable as it seems. The speculative nature of the enterprise, and the value of the haul, when success crowns

THE SEAL FISHERY.

the venture, are however so great, that capitalists to fit out the ships, and men to man them are always to be found; and now that legislation is preventing the indiscriminate slaughter which formerly ruled, there is more regularity in the proceeds, and less likelihood than there seemed to be ten years ago of the extermination of the seal. Another point in favour of the seal fishery is that it is prosecuted when the other fisheries are in abeyance, so that even though the men may make but little on some of their voyages they would be earning practically nothing if ashore. This, together with the prospects of a large return, the change from the monotony of their general life and the shortness of the trip, forms a further inducement to them.

It is scarcely necessary to point out, that although the Newfoundland seal-skin is dressed and mounted for many ornamental purposes, it is not the true "fur-seal," and the animal's value depends partly on the fat and partly on the value of the skin for the manufacture of leather.