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 APPENDIX Q.
 

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EXTRACT FROM AN OFFICIAL REPORT ON BRITISH COLUMBIA, BY  
THE HON. H. L. LANGEVIN, C. B., MINISTER OF PUBLIC  
WORKS, 1872.

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## THE FISHERIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE fisheries of Columbia are probably the richest in the world, but they have been but very little worked. The gold fever draws immigrants towards the auriferous tracts, causing them to neglect what to many of them would prove to be a much richer mine, and one yielding much more certain results than that, to seek which they go so far, and undergo so much labor and fatigue. At the present time things are beginning to wear a different aspect; some attention is being turned to the fisheries, without, however, the auriferous lands being in consequence neglected; however, the fisheries require fresh arrivals to develop their full resources. The present population has its ordinary avocations, and can devote to this new branch of industry but an unimportant part of its time. Inferences may be drawn from the fact that there are really only two large fishing establishments; one a salmon fishery, under the management of Captain Stamp, who, for the first time, exports salmon in tin boxes; the other, a whale fishery in the Gulf of Georgia. I saw one of the whalers, the *Byzantium*, in Deep Bay. She was an English brig, commanded by Captain Calhoun, and on board of her was Captain Roys, the inventor of an explosive ball, which is used in the whale fishery, and which, on penetrating the marine monster, explodes, and throws out a harpoon. The first whale against which this projectile was used was killed in 1868. In 1869 and 1870, the company made use of a small steam vessel, and their success last year induced them to devote to the trade a brig of 179 tons, manned with twenty hands. Captain Calhoun complained of having to pay heavy duties on nearly all the articles required for the fishery. This obstacle to the success of this branch of industry will shortly be removed by the substitution of the Canadian tariff for the tariff of British Columbia.

I was assured that, if that expedition proved a success, there is room in our Pacific waters for at least fifty undertakings of a similar character. I observe that, since my return, the whaling schooner *Industry* has arrived at Victoria with 300 barrels, or about 10,000 gallons of oil, after an absence of only five weeks. One of the whales killed during the expedition was sixty feet long, and would certainly yield nearly seventy barrels of oil.

On this subject the Blue Book of 1870 contains the following:—

“ During the year there were three whaling companies in existence (one of these has since broken down). Thirty-two whales were killed, yielding 25,800 gallons of oil, worth 50 cents per gallon. There was one vessel with boats, and there were two stations with boats, employing altogether forty-nine hands. The capital invested in this interest amounted to about \$20,000.”

“ The dog-fish catch exceeds in importance that of the whales. 50,000 gallons of dog-fish oil was rendered, worth forty cents per gallon. This branch of industry is steadily progressing.”

From another source I have obtained the following information regarding 1871.