

Ontario has been maintained at about the standard of 1894. A falling off in trout and whitefish was partly made up by an increase in herring, pickerel, and pike. Lake Ontario has held its own in the fish trade, but the other lakes show a decrease of from 8 to 12 per cent. as compared with the previous year's returns. There has been a remarkable development in the Lake of the Woods fisheries. The aggregate value of the fish taken from this lake is almost equal to that of Lake Ontario. The aggregate product of the British Columbia fisheries in 1895 exceeded the catch of 1894 by almost half a million dollars, and, exclusive of fur seals, exceeds the returns of any previous year.

The returns from the more important fisheries were valued as follows in 1895: Salmon, \$3,732,717; cod, \$3,638,519; herring, \$2,786,516; lobster, \$2,210,096. The cod fisheries were among the first industries of this country, and until 1895 have each year exceeded all other fisheries in value. A decline of \$595,000 in the value of the cod fisheries, and an increase of \$505,000 in the value of the salmon fisheries, has had the effect of placing the cod industry in the second place in a tabulated list of the value of Canadian fisheries.

The Government is taking energetic means to replenish the fisheries of Canada. There were fifteen hatcheries in the Dominion in 1896, and during this year more than 200,000,000 fry were distributed to different parts of Canada. An interesting experiment is the effort made to transplant the shell fish and crustacean of the Atlantic on the Pacific coast; shipments of live lobsters and oysters have been successfully made to British Columbia, and fishing experts appear confident that the beds will be finally established.

#### ANTI-CANADIAN PREJUDICE.

Canadians are naturally anxious to see the population of the Dominion increased by a desirable class of newcomers, because Canadians know that this country has the soil and climate to grow a vast variety of field products, and that she has, besides, room for millions of other producers and enjoys the freest and most democratic of governments. So they watch with interest for any signs of active immigration. We have learned from Halifax of the arrival there of some hundreds of immigrants for the North-West. There have been, too, arrivals at Montreal of Galicians, and many more are to come or coming via New York, bound for the Galician colony in the North-West Territories. Some of the steerage passengers by the Allan Liner "California," too, were for the Canadian North-West, and we are getting a few Scandinavians.

But it is not to be denied that we are handicapped, in soliciting immigrants, by the absurd notions people abroad have imbibed about Canada and Canadians. It is related by the *Canadian Gazette*, of London, that Mr. Sydney Coryn, who is engaged by the Canadian Pacific Railway to lecture on Canada in English villages, delivered his lecture in the local chapel of a North-country village, with the local minister in the chair. In a little preparatory prayer, the minister begged for the Divine blessing on "thy servant who has come to tell us about savage lands." Now this is the sort of notion about Canada that prevails in a great part of the United Kingdom.

Again, the appointment of Mr. Devlin, of Ottawa, as Canadian Immigration Commissioner to Canada, has aroused most unreasoning opposition to his errand in Dublin, Kilkenny and Limerick. The *Kilkenny Journal* refers to a letter, which it prints, "to warn the Irish people against this sinister design of driving them to a place that

is worse than Connaught, and a little bit better than hell. The name of the Canadian Commissioner has rather an immediate connection with the latter place." But the *Munster News* is wilder still; it would rather see Irishmen go to Siberia, than "to the inhospitable shores of Manitoba." Such rancor and prejudice as this are happily not general in the United Kingdom, but there is much work yet to be done by agents for Canada.

#### THE RAT PORTAGE MINING CONVENTION.

WHAT A VISITOR THOUGHT OF IT.

The following description of last week's mining convention at Rat Portage, in the Lake Superior gold district of Ontario, comes to THE MONETARY TIMES from a source which we must regard as disinterested. At all events the writer of it is not a local man. The letter is dated at the Portage on 6th June:

According to promise, I send you my impressions of the mining gathering here last week. I have not time to go into the thing technically, and I guess you don't want me to, anyhow at any great length. It was a big meeting, and lasted three days, as they said it would, and was considered altogether, as they say out here, 'a great success.'

There was a good representation of Canadians, and quite a sprinkling of Englishmen, but it seemed to me there were more United States people than any others. Quite a lot came from Duluth and St. Paul and other American cities, and they seemed to know just as much about this gold-bearing territory and to believe in it as fully as any native could. Opportunely, there was a man here from the *London Graphic*, and he found plenty of opportunity of making sketches of men and things here and hereabout. That will be a good way of getting the attention of people in the British Islands, if his sketches are printed.

Mr. George Drewry, president of the Mining Exchange here, was in the chair. I can scarcely tell you how many were present. Some say 300 were delegates; some say 400; anyhow the town seemed very full and very busy. There was a lot of talk in the streets and hotels, as well as in the convention. I never met such people to talk. But there was something better (for a certain sort of thoughtful people) than the mere talk of prospectors or other interested parties; I mean the large exhibit of ores in the Mining Exchange offices. These were taken from mines and mining localities all over the district, and were full of interest. There were some uncommon minerals too, and precious stones, showing how rich the country is in minerals. One man showed quite a little pile of garnets, which were said to have been got on the Winnipeg River. And several cabinets of mineral specimens were exhibited by Prof. Goodwin, of the Kingston School of Mines, who brought them with him from the school in that city, and states that he intends to leave them here.

Among the visitors from a distance were a Mr. Rickard, of London, England, and his son, who I understand is State Geologist of Colorado, and has a good reputation in the United States; Mr. Rathbone, who had been a mining inspector in the Transvaal, and a mining engineer named Purchase, from Johannesburg. These gentlemen, or some of them, seconded by the Ontario mining director, Mr. Blue, are responsible for the shindy in the convention, which is the talk of the town. These are all Englishmen, I fancy (at least I cannot answer for Blue), and you have heard, I dare say, that Englishmen are very stubborn in their opinions and do not always show tact in what they say or do. Mr. Purchase read a paper on "Mining Economics," referring to the working of the stamp mills at the Sultana and Lake of the Woods, and declared that coal ought to be used for fuel, because wood burning is not economical. Then both Mr. Rickard and Mr. Purchase declared that the Sultana mine was not conducted properly—that certain things should be done thus and so, and the latter insisted that the mine's methods were wasteful and he had written to England, don't you know, to say so.

Both these gentlemen had just been shown all over the Sultana mine and treated with every courtesy; and even if what they said was true, which I am not prepared to say, it was hardly good taste to make the faults they saw the subject of public abuse and avowed correspondence. But Mr. Caldwell did not lack for defenders. Amongst others Mr. Blue stood up for the local men and methods. He said that he was a Canadian, born in the Canadian backwoods, and that in his observation "Canadians had managed to develop and put upon a paying basis some of their mines, without the aid of either English brains or English money." Mr. Blue looks like a quiet man, but he was plainly nettled at the high-and-mighty tone of the Englishmen towards what are known in England as the "blawsted colonists." What he said riled the Jingo spirit of Mr. Rathbone, who looked somewhat like a cowboy and plainly wanted a row. He hastened from the audience to the stage and shook his fist at Blue, declaring that "Eng-