

containing each four dozen one pound cans. Of this amount the following shipments have been noted up to the beginning of December:—

To Europe.....	288,995 cases.
Australia.....	27,814 “
Eastern States.....	182,601 “
Total.....	499,410 “

leaving 162,590 cases undisposed of, of which the greater portion has doubtless since been shipped. In the above statement of the amount gone to the Eastern States is included, it may be assumed, the small consignment that has this year gone through to Eastern Canada from British Columbia.

27. Upon the Columbia River, in Oregon, notwithstanding the gloomy vaticinations that had been indulged in of deterioration from alleged over-fishing, it is gratifying to know that there has, during the past season, been a notable increase of the average yield. The comparison for the past three years is as under.—

Canned in 1878.....	449,000 cases
“ 1879.....	440,000 “
“ 1880.....	525,000 “

The 525,000 cases packed during the past season are the product of twenty-eight canneries of varied capacity, giving an average of about 18,500 cases for each—the extremes being 40,000 and 3,000 cases. I quote the following remarks:—“The run of fish in July was unprecedented. The catch in July, 1879, was unusually heavy. It was out of proportion to any previous July. But this year it was still larger. It took the cannery completely by surprise. They were not prepared to take such quantities. More than the usual number had to be salted, some had to be thrown away, and some of the boats were withdrawn.” This excessive yield is to be ascribed to those natural and seemingly anomalous causes which affect to a certain extent the Columbian fisheries, similarly with those of Fraser River, and for which, in the case of the latter stream, I have before endeavored to suggest a reason. I mention this fact lest, inconsiderately, the increase of 1880 should be ascribed to the effect of the artificial propagation now in progress on the Columbian waters. As I have mentioned in a previous report a hatching establishment was put in operation there some years ago, and there is every confidence of a beneficial result—still, however, prospective. The first batch of young salmon liberated from this hatchery, of any moment, was, according to the U.S. Fishery Report, in 1878, estimated at 1,203,000. These fish, or the survivors of them, should attain maturity and return to the river, if all calculation be not erroneous, in 1882. There was a small shoal (the first product of the hatchery) liberated in 1877; but the number was inconsiderable, and in any case can only affect the approaching season.

28. The Deputy Minister, Mr. Smith, had the opportunity during his recent visit to this Province, of listening to the various arguments advanced by the cannery proprietors in favor of the establishment of a hatchery on the Fraser; and also of obtaining information and suggestions on other points. To the notes of that gentleman, and to my previous communications on the first named subject, I respectfully refer you.

29. Several gentlemen, including Dr. Bean and Professor D. S. Jordan, of Washington, employed by the U.S. Fish Commission, have during the past summer been occupied in examining the fisheries of this coast, and collecting specimens of their products. The observations of these gentlemen will, when published, doubtless convey much valuable information. So far I have seen only partial references to their proceedings, conveyed in the meeting reports of the San Francisco Academies. With regard to the codfish I extract the following: