

prising men, each with a few hundred pounds capital of his own, coming over and taking up our lands, or commencing remunerative, manufacturing, or mining enterprises; the money thus brought over will fructify to the benefit of the country generally, will entail no annual burden in the shape of interest to be remitted and will never lead to the reproach which has been entailed on the country in time past, of being a place in which capital without end may be sunk without producing any return.

THE FISHERIES.

WE have received from the Office of the Commissioner of Crown Lands that portion of his report relating to the fisheries, and entitled, "Fisheries Appendices, from the Annual Report for 1886," of Hon. A. Campbell, including Capt. Fortin's Report. The act of Confederation not having come into force till 1st July, 1867, of course the present report covers only the old ground, and deals with the various subjects treated only in their relation to the Upper and Lower Canada of the past. The report shows that the whole expenses were in Lower Canada \$21,777.50, inclusive of \$7,239.50 for fishing bounty claims accrued in 1865. In Upper Canada the expenses were \$4,190.39. Total collections \$8,308.60, being chiefly rents collected at the Department as payments in advance. Receipts Upper Canada, \$3,000; Lower Canada, \$5,308.60. It appears from Capt. Fortin's report that he had 96 brush fisheries from Cape Enrage (Bic) to River Rimouski, which did not exist in 1864, pulled down at the commencement of the season. The Captain goes on to say: "Our cruise lasted nearly six months and ended favorably, although the season was generally bad on account of the violent storms experienced in the spring and beginning of summer. Under the heading—"Of the maintenance of order and peace on our coasts," we find the following:—

"In looking over my report, it will be seen that on the North Coast of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, and on the Coast of Gaspé, tranquillity and order have been hardly troubled on that immense extent of coasts, and that our fishermen, and those of the other Provinces, have been able to devote themselves to their labors with perfect freedom, and without fear of being molested by any one. At Magdalen Islands also, public order had not been troubled in the months of May and June, that is during the time of spring herring and mackerel fisheries, although there were at the time a good number of fishing schooners in Amherst Harbor. But as soon as summer mackerel fishing set in, American schooners frequented those parts, and not long after the inhabitants of the isolated coasts of that group had reason to complain of the depredations and robberies perpetrated on their properties.

"And these criminal acts having also taken place during the night, it had been almost impossible to find the guilty parties; all that was known was that they were among the crews of schooners anchored in the vicinity where those depredations were being accomplished. To charge indistinctly all the American fishermen who frequent the Magdalen Islands, to the number of several thousands, with the bad deeds the inhabitants of those Isles have to complain of, would be unjust, for I had had occasion to acknowledge that there are to be found among them a large number of honest seamen of peaceable dispositions, who when they land on our coasts always behave in a decent and polite manner. Often, too, American fishermen fight among themselves, as happened this year at Amherst, when I was elsewhere. During mackerel fishing at the Magdalen Islands, August, September, and part of October, it would be very necessary a government vessel should cruise constantly in those parts, to overcome foreign fishermen in order to maintain peace.

With regard to the protection of the fisheries, the regulations relating to the maritime fisheries have been well observed on the whole extent of our coasts—no complaints were heard. The enforcement of the clause of the act relating to salmon fishing, providing for a distance of 50 yards between each net, was only accomplished with difficulty, as the fishermen were thereby subjected to considerable trouble. The difficulties were, however, arranged in a manner to do no injury to the fishermen while fulfilling the requirements of the law. The clause which obliges the fishermen to raise or dispose their nets in such a manner as to leave a free passage from Saturday evening till Monday morning of each week, also occasioned many difficulties. To many fishermen, having a large number of nets in use, it was a very arduous and sometimes impossible task to raise them every Saturday and replace them again on Monday. But the spirit of the law was obeyed by a compromise requiring the fishermen to raise only certain parts of their nets, and to dispose what remained in the water in such a manner as to leave a free passage to the fish. The fishery overseers of Natashquan and Anticosti were compelled in some cases to apply the law rigorously, condemning the guilty to a penalty and the forfeiture of their nets, and the fish captured in violation of the law.

Capt. Fortin continues:—

"I have continued the system inaugurated in 1859, for the organization of Salmon and Trout fisheries, which consists in renting the fishing stations by means of licenses renewable each season. This year the number of licenses granted for salmon fishing, either on the sea coast, or in certain number of rivers, emptying into the Gulf and Lower St. Lawrence, amounts to two hundred and sixty, and the fees on the same to the sum of \$861.75. But this figure does not represent all the revenue derived from the renting of Salmon and Trout fisheries, for our most abundant rivers are leased directly by the Government to different persons, by means of leases of several years' duration.

"There now remains to speak of the system of

licenses adopted towards the American fishermen, with the view of making them participate, in common with our fishermen, to all our maritime fisheries, in exchange for an annual rent payable by each vessel at the rate of half a dollar a ton.

"Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island adopted the same system, and one of the conditions of this Intercolonial arrangement was, that a license, granted by one of the Provinces, would give to the bearer the right of fishing in the waters of all the other Provinces. My report shows that I have had occasion to give only a few licenses to American fishermen, and the reason of this is quite obvious, as when they reached our shores, they were all provided with licenses taken on their way from home, in the ports of Nova Scotia principally, at the Port of Halifax, Port Mulgrave and Port Hood. Several American schooners fished at the Magdalen Islands, having no licenses, but I must add that not one of those came to fish in our waters, except at the Magdalen Islands, where it is known that American fishermen, by the Treaty of 1784, and the Convention of 1818, between Great Britain and the United States, have a right to fish on the shores in common with British subjects.

"On the whole, the system of licenses in favor of American fishermen has worked very well, and I may add, that in all my communications with them, I have been well satisfied of their politeness, and their readiness to give me the information required. I have visited myself, or have caused to be visited by my officers, the following number of vessels:—

Canadian vessels 125; English do, 135; American do, 88; French do, 12. Total vessels, 360.

ADMINISTRATION OF SUMMARY JUSTICE ON THE COASTS.

"It is easily conceivable that with such a large extent of maritime coasts as Canada possesses in the Gulf and Lower St. Lawrence, inhabited by a population of more than 30,000, besides being frequented every year by from 15,000 to 20,000 foreign fishermen, my ministry as Justice of the Peace is often required, the more so as there is no other armed vessel but the one under my command, by which the public officers of those distant localities can be assisted to put the law in force, when there is open resistance on the part of the accused parties. As my sailors are all constables, disciplined and armed, and being always at hand, I am ready at all times to render assistance where it is necessary, and this is why in many cases the law is put into force and works well, when if left to itself it would become a dead letter.

"I am pleased to be able to say that the game law has been in general well observed on our coasts, and the great number of broods of young birds seen this year near the shores and among the innumerable islands and isles lining the coast of Labrador, is a surprise that the several and important species of the duck tribe frequenting those parts have not been much disturbed during the laying time. It did not come to my knowledge that the causes forbidding the carrying away of eggs of wild fowls had been violated, although this might have taken place during my absence from the coast, but not on a large scale. However, one thing I am certain of, is that no schooner either foreign or Canadian, and engaged in the carrying away of those eggs for the purpose of trade to some parts of Nova Scotia, where they sell at a high price, was seen on any part of our coasts this year. The capture and forfeiture of the schooner *Ocean Bride*, for violation of this clause of the game law, had the good effect of putting a stop to this illegal trade, which is so destructive to some species of our wild fowls.

"As to the Customs Regulations and Free Port of Gaspé, in my quality of Customs Officer, I must not omit the duties connected with that office. In the visits I made on board the fishing schooners found near our shores, I have always ascertained that there were no smuggled goods on board, and moreover, I have attended to the vessels trading on the north shore, so that none would land their goods for the purpose of delivering them to their customers on the north shore without first having had their clearance from the Custom House of the Free Port at Gaspé Basin. As soon as the Free Port system was abolished, my duty was to try and stop smuggling on the coasts where it might have been practised; this is what I have done, and I am very glad to be able to say that I did not perceive any intention of violating the Revenue laws on our coasts.

"Your instructions of the 4th May, 1865, entrusted me with the sale of the Clergy Reserve lands of the Magdalen Islands. I hastened to fulfil this part of my duties, in the best possible way, and I have during this season disposed of 31 lots of land, purchased by some inhabitants residing at the Magdalen Islands, with the exception of one lot which was bought by a trader from Nova Scotia. The sale of those 31 lots, at 20 cents per acre, brought the sum of \$365, and I collected at once one-fifth of the price of sale on all those lots, and besides the whole price of the lot No. 59, forming a total sum of \$81.92 which I have received. The remainder of those lots I believe I shall be able to dispose next year, although they are mostly all composed of a light sand, and consequently unfit for agriculture, but on some of them are found pastures and natural meadows, where the inhabitants may procure their forage for the winter.

This portion of the report closes with an account of the Captain's medical services:

The Spring herring fishery, in the First Division, embracing the Magdalen Islands, was as abundant as ever, and immense quantities might have been taken if there had been enough fishermen, and, especially profitable markets for the fish.

The products of the summer codfishing have exceeded those of last year, although the want of salt in the spring was a cause of the loss of from 500 to 600 quintals of codfish. According to my reports, these products are equal to 10,470 quintals of codfish. I include in this amount the quantity of codfish taken by the schooners of Amherst and House Harbors. It

amounts to 2,490 quintals for the first, and 2,520 for the last.

Our fishermen of Magdalen Islands have been more successful this year in the summer mackerel fishing than ever. They now devote themselves to this fishery with more perseverance than heretofore besides having, within the last few years, acquired a great deal of experience and skill in this kind of trade. The products of this fishery, according to information collected on the spot, are estimated at 1760 barrels, being more than double the proceeds of last year, when they only reached a total of 952 barrels.

The products of the fall Cod fishery have been middling. Bad weather, and very often the want of bait, have alone contributed to bring this result.

TRADE OF IRELAND.

SOME interesting particulars respecting the trade of Irish ports may be found in different parts of the eleventh report of Her Majesty's Customs, issued yesterday. In Ireland, out of 19 ports, 9 exhibit an increase, 10 a decrease in the revenue received. We are happy to say that Dublin added to her revenue last year £55,183; Cork, £28,941; Londonderry, £15,981; and Waterford, £8,402. The increase has chiefly arisen from the consumption of tobacco. How great a loss the death of an individual may occasion to a trading town is seen in the case of Dundalk, where, owing to the death of the principal bondholder of tobacco, there was a falling off of £12,700, and, we infer, a proportionate diminution of local employment. The revenue of Belfast fell off £6,461. The amount of duty received in the port of Dublin last year was £984,586, increase, as we said, of £55,183. The establishment of a sugar refinery in Dublin caused an increase of £35,000 on unrefined sugar. We would be glad to know how far the amount of wages received by the workmen corresponded with this sum. There is an increase of £18,337 in the revenue received on British spirits, but a falling off in the duties on tea and refined sugar—the latter caused, no doubt, by the establishment of a Dublin refinery. The revenue of the port of Ballina increased by £641, and the Commissioners remark that "the trade of this port is increasing." There is an increase in the receipts for corn, rum, brandy, and wine in Belfast, but a considerable falling off in tobacco, the retail dealers now receiving their stock from Dublin. The revenue at Cork amounted to £318,671—an increase of £25,944, chiefly on grain, tobacco, and tea. The manufacture of tobacco is on the increase in Cork. The duties received at Galway have declined by £2,516, and the decline is noticed in tea, tobacco, sugar, corn, and timber. Limerick also declined £8,346—the decline took place in the receipts from sugar and tobacco. A note by the Commissioners states that "the importation of sugar from Barbadoes has been given up." The Customs' receipts at Londonderry amounted to £120,023, and an increase of £15,981. The increase at this port extends to almost every article, but is chiefly seen in tea, wine, tobacco, and spirits. At Ross there is a decrease in corn, tea, timber and tobacco; the whole decrease amounting to £1,807. The duty on spirits collected at Sligo amounted to £20,963, an increase of £3,535; but we regret to learn that the manufacture of tobacco in the neighbourhood of Sligo has declined. There is scarcely a part of Ireland so favourably circumstanced for a large extension of trade, and we trust the day is not far distant when that encouragement which Sligo has a right to demand will give an impetus to her trade and manufacture. At Waterford there is an increase of £8,402, of which £7,700 is on tobacco. At Wexford there is a decrease of £1,143 entirely on tea. Youghal figures for an increase of £236, but this was made an independent port only on the 1st October last, and £236 is the entire amount of duties received during three months. The total increase has been £110,418; the total decrease £36,424.

The total declared value of British and Irish produce exported to America last year was £28,484,146. The value of linen piece goods alone sent to the States was £4,172,989, an increase of £537,627 upon the year. A considerable portion of this article was of Irish manufacture. The total increase in the value of our exports to America was £7,256,190—a wonderful expansion of trade to a single country within a year. But even this is far surpassed by the increase of exports from the United States to Great Britain. We bought goods from America in 1865 to the value of £21,624,125, but in 1866 we bought the equivalent of £46,852,284. The deficient harvest of 1866 led to large importations of cereals from the States. 102,325,067 pounds of tea were entered for home consumption last year. The duty per pound is now only sixpence, but the aggregate of sixpences made up £2,568,154 for the revenue. The average price of the tea "in bond" is set down at 1s. 7½d. the pound. The declared value of British exports to France last year was £11,696,016—an increase of £2,633,921. Our imports from France amounted to the vast sum of £31,591,333, an increase of nearly four millions on the imports of 1865. The value of the silks bought from France is set down as £7,551,997. For French butter England paid £2,276,493—a suggestive fact which ought to warn the Irish exporter to prepare his butter carefully. If our butter were as neatly got up and as carefully prepared, the French would not have sold so large a quantity in a market which the Irish agriculturist might make exclusively his own.—*Irish Times*, July 17.

GREY AND SIMCOE RAILWAY.—We understand that the by-laws granting aid to the Grey and Simcoe Railway has been carried in the Townships of Melancthon and Osprey. On account of an error in the by-law submitted by Artemisia, the vote has been postponed until Friday, the 20th day of September.—*Durham Chronicle*.