

the fisheries. While this is so with regard to the general question of fisheries, the place that Canada occupies in this department of the supply of human food is very significant, because she owns the largest and the richest fisheries in the world. As my friend, the Hon. PETER MITCHELL, says, "The great variety and superior quality of the fish products of the sea and inland waters of Canada afford a nutritious and economic food, admirably adapted to the domestic wants of a mixed and laborious population. The prolific nature of the waters adjacent to Canada, and the convenience of their undisturbed use, make the sea and inland fisheries on this continent of peculiar value." Did you ever realize the vast stretches of coast line of which Canada controls the fisheries? Bounded as the Dominion is by three oceans it has besides its numerous inland seas over 5,500 miles of sea coast, washed by waters abounding in the most valuable fishes of all kinds. The older provinces of the Confederation have 2,500 miles of sea coast and inland seas, while the sea coast of British Columbia alone is over 3,000 miles in extent. The teeming waters of these possessions must be reckoned as national property, richer and more perpetual than any mere estimate in money can express. But not only in the matter of extent of sea coast line and territory has Canada larger fisheries than all other countries in the world, but in the extreme northern location which she occupies she possesses an advantage which is of immense value. This advantage is that the fish are better in the northern climates than in the southern climates, and not only are the fish better and more solid in the northern climates, but the supply of fish food is, owing to the extreme northern location, something enormous. Mr. HARVEY, in his history of Newfoundland, says "that the arctic currents which wash the coast of Labrador, Newfoundland and Canada, chilling the atmosphere, and bearing on its bosom huge ice argosies, is the source of the vast fish wealth which has been drawn on for ages, and which promises to continue for ages to come. Wanting this cold river in the ocean the cod, seals, herring, mackerel, halibut and numerous other fish which now crowd the northern seas would be entirely absent. The great fishing interests are just as dependent upon this arctic current as are the farming interests on the rain and sunshine which ripen the crop." Professor HIND says, "the arctic seas, and the great rivers which they send forth, swarm with minute forms of life, constituting in many places a living mass,—a vast ocean of living slime. The all-pervading life which exists there affords the true solution of the problem which has so often presented itself to those investigating deep sea fisheries, viz; the source of food which gives sustenance to the countless millions of fish that swarm upon the coasts of the Dominion." Another writer, Dr. BROWN, has shown that the presence of this slime, spread over 100,000 square miles, "provides food for millions of birds that frequent the arctic seas in the summer, and furnishes sustenance to the largest marine animals the year round." Another writer, Mr. Sheriff JONCAS, of Gaspe, the clever contributor to the literature of the British Association, says: "By far the largest area of this cold water subtends the coasts of the British American Provinces within the 100 fathom line of soundings. It is computed that while the