

of the great importance of our fisheries as a source of national wealth." The statistics which called forth these remarks are those of the States which border on the lakes—Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. The total number of men engaged is 5,050, employing, with their apparatus and accessories, a capital of \$1,345,979. There are 49 steam tugs used in this fishing, and the total number of vessels and boats of all kinds is 1,067, valued at \$266,600. The catch of these States represents in weight, 68,742,000 pounds of fish, worth \$2,794,050, the fish being represented principally by the white-fish, salmon trout, herring, and sturgeon.

The fresh-water fisheries of the Dominion, as well, are deserving of notice. The product for 1890 of the Province of Ontario fisheries alone was valued at \$444,491, which is an increase of \$77,358, or more than seven per cent. over 1879. These fisheries gave employment to 2,130 men who used 18 vessels and 865 boats. The value of their craft and appurtenances is placed at \$177,541. We have classified the catch of the different lakes and rivers as under :

DISTRICT.	Brls.	Fresh.	Pickled.
Lake Superior	3,923	\$ 6,847	\$29,032
Lake Huron	24,434	169,810	41,374
Lake St. Clair	2,33	10,864
River Detroit	2,760	17,864
Lake Erie	10,043	48,577
River Niagara	986	5,272
Lake Ontario	12,911	78,411	4,180
River St. Lawrence . .	1,508	6,926

Of this catch, the aggregate of which is placed at 63,882 barrels by the report, nearly a third (19,524 barrels) was white fish, of the value of \$195,260 ; next trout, 10,443 brls., valued at \$104,430 ; herrings bringing in \$28,264, and then in order, pickerel, maskinonge, bass, sturgeon, pike, and sciscoes to smaller amounts ; "coarse fish," whatever they may be, \$32,112, and 37,208 worth consumed locally.

Let us see the American figures of fish &c., from the Great Lakes. Their catch of white fish alone amounted to \$778,100, and of sturgeon to \$116,300, but of this latter sum, \$34,000 was represented by caviare and \$5,765 by isinglass. On Lake Michigan \$668,400 worth of fish was caught and on Lake Erie \$412,800 worth. On lakes Huron and St. Clair about one-third of the fish caught by the Americans was salted, and \$126,000 worth frozen. We cannot give the Lake Superior figures. It appears that Michigan and Ohio catch the largest quantities, the first 24,924,300 pounds, Ohio, 24,013,100 pounds ; New York, 4,070,000 pounds.

British Columbia's yield of fish and fishery products is a very considerable one, the value last year being \$713,335, as against \$631,766

for the previous year. While a portion of this is represented by Pacific Ocean fish, such as haddock and halibut, more of it by seal and porpoise oil, and as much as \$168,000 by seal and otter skins, the most important item is that of salmon, caught in the Fraser River and canned. The take of these amounts in value to \$400,781. In that province there are ten salmon-canning establishments, valued at \$95,000. We cannot tell from the Blue Book what proportion of boats and seines, out of the total valued at \$78,025, is used for fresh-water fishing.

In the Province of Quebec, between the St. Lawrence and the Province line, fishing in the lakes and streams is inconsiderable, if one may judge from the returns made, and is mainly used for home consumption, a portion being sent to the Montreal market. Only one out of eight division overseers makes any estimate of the value of the catch in his district, viz., Missisquoi Bay, shad and pickerel, \$1,256. Sturgeon, bass, pike, white-fish, and maskinonge forming, with other fish named, the staple catch ; 2,704 barrels of these and "mixed fish," are all we can find tabulated in the report. There was, in addition, 45,400 lbs. trout taken in the Joliette division. Eels appear to be a favorite dish among the French Canadians. We find records of these in five of the ten divisions, and the total number caught was 54,900. North of the St. Lawrence, which includes the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers, the catch reported is but some 840 barrels, of similar varieties to the above.

If we are to add salmon statistics to those of the lake and river fisheries, we shall find the value of these to be worth notice, although Mr. Wakeham, the officer in charge of the Gulf and Lower St. Lawrence fisheries, says that the north and south shore salmon fishing has been a failure. We find Quebec returns \$67,791 worth of salmon taken, (besides the 23,302 lbs. angled for on thirty-three streams of Quebec and New Brunswick) ; Nova Scotia, \$45,592 ; New Brunswick, \$130,787 ; P. E. Island, \$741. The reason of the poor catch of salmon is, in the opinion of the officer named, the ice which bridged the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence until late in May. Finding good prices obtainable in the United States, and having but few salmon to send, Quebec shippers did not export any to Great Britain this year.

We append the value of fishery products throughout the Dominion for two years :

	VALUE OF FISH, &C.	
	1879.	1880.
New Brunswick, . . .	\$2,554,722.22	\$2,744,446.58
P. E. Island	1,402,301.40	1,675,088.90
British Columbia . .	631,766.64	913,335.52
Ontario	367,133.00	444,491.00
Nova Scotia	5,752,935.00	6,291,061.00
Quebec	2,820,394.90	2,631,559.10
	\$13,529,253.16	\$14,499,982.10

SQUARE TIMBER.

While all accounts, Canadian as well as American, point to a short crop of sawn lumber, to supply the active demand of this autumn and the probable requirements of the coming spring, (from 50,000,000 to 75,000,000 feet is the deficiency, according to various estimates) it may be well to glance at the prospect for our square timber. Our principal export in the shape of the hewn log is white pine. The quantity of white pine and waney white pine logs culled at Quebec this season up to the middle of August, was almost a fourth (1,163,211 cubic feet) greater than that of 1880, while it was more than two millions over 1879, in which year the quantity measured and culled was only 2,891,666 feet. Next in order as to extent of export, come red pine, oak and elm, the cullers' report of which indicates that they were, at the date named, five, forty-three and fourteen per cent. respectively, in excess of the previous year.

The market for Canadian pine in Britain is being very unfavorably affected by the increasing importation there of pitch pine from the Southern United States. The growth of that trade is indicated by the fact that, while the stock of hewn pine in Liverpool in August 1880 was 403,000 feet, it had grown by August last to 795,000 feet, having thus all but doubled. Sawn pitch pine had increased in stock from 277,000 to 577,000 feet in the same period. This article of hewn timber is sold in the British market much cheaper than Canada pine. Our red pines principally feel its competition, for our white is too manifestly superior to be much affected. Why these Southern pines are sold so cheaply may receive some explanation from the fact that the United States government has lately discovered that great quantities of timber have been taken from the Government of some Southern States without any dues having been paid upon it—stolen, in fact.

The cut of square timber is much larger this season than last upon the Ottawa. No less than 6,585 cribs of timber, containing 170,492 pieces, have passed through the Chaudiere slides at Ottawa on their way to the Quebec market, as against 3,441 cribs of 82,851 pieces last year. Besides this quantity, 12,000 pieces of square timber, partly red but mostly white pine, are being taken by the British Canadian Lumber Company from Mackay's Landing to Quebec by rail, so that the out-put this year is seventy-five per cent. if not a hundred per cent. greater than that of last year. The Pembroke Observer gives a list of the rafts taken out on the Ottawa, above Ottawa city, during the season 1881. These we have grouped ac-