

## THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

Amongst the guests at the Merchants' Exchange is Capt. Hodges, of Boston, Mass., one of the leading members of the Atlantic Fish Company. This company carrying on a fishing business in the East for a generation or two back and that on a large scale have, like others found their supply from the numerous grounds between Cape Cod and Iceland gradually becoming depleted and have ever been on the lookout for fresh banks and fresh markets. Some time since the banks of British Columbia attracted their attention, and now they are handling the catch of two local companies. The American of this port and the Victoria Trading and Fishing Co., of the capital, and they have sent one of their members to overlook the ground. The captain arrived some couple of weeks ago and took the first possible chance per the Coquitlam of visiting the grounds. With these he is thoroughly satisfied as also with the ability and management of the local companies supplying him with the products of the briny. Capt. Hodges was very fortunate in having good weather and in catching the Coquitlam, aboard which boat he found every comfort and delicacy that could be afforded, not to the fishermen only, but to the traveler. He speaks in glowing terms of the quality and most marketable size of the local fish and considers that the industry is capable of incredible expansion.

On the eastern banks his company's vessels take a month to a trip and average a 10 ton cargo, here with but half that time an average of over double that weight is easily obtainable. With these great advantages and the fostering care given to this as well as all other infant industries by the freight rates of the C. P. R., there is no doubt but that amongst the exports of Vancouver halibut

will occupy no inconsiderable position.

The worthy Captain who has himself gone through a thorough experience in this business speaks very highly of the abilities in fishing of Capt. Anderson, once an employee of his own company, but now of the Victoria company. In him he considers Vancouver has not only an able fisherman and manager, but one who more perhaps, than many others, will do much in tracing out the limits and positions of the banks of this coast.

The Captain will probably spend a few days more in this city whence he goes south to take in the rest of the coast before returning East.—*News-Advertiser*.

## COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

Anti-toxine is being used successfully at Hamilton, Ont., in diphtheria cases.

The Japanese Government has purchased the celebrated Chilean cruiser Esmeralda for \$1,00,000 in gold.

Lord Chief Justice Russell's first reform, says the *Law Times*, will be the immediate establishment of a distinct commercial court, for the trial of mercantile cases. It will consist of three of the common law judges and a specially qualified jury; assessors and an official referee will be associated with the judges to try technical issues; the cases to come before the court will be picked out from the general list by an official appointed for the purpose.

Dun & Co., last Saturday said: "It is difficult to detect any change in current business." The prospects for business after January 1 are quite generally considered to be more hopeful. The liabilities in the failures for the last week of November were \$2,038,407 against \$2,904,476 for the same week last year; but the decrease was wholly in manufacturing liabilities, \$427,644, against \$1,675,027 last year. The whole

sale trading liabilities were \$1,567,348 against \$1,208,449 last year. For the four weeks of November the aggregate was \$10,581,875 against \$20,841,621 last year. The failures this week have been 385 in the United States against 285 last year, and 40 in Canada against 42 last year."

All the preliminaries having been satisfactorily arranged for the establishment at Vancouver of cold storage premises, the work of erecting the same will shortly be proceeded with. The necessary capital has been subscribed, and the company, being a strong one financially there can be no doubt as to the success of the scheme. The city has been asked to exempt the property from taxation for a term of years, as well as to give free water, under regulations to be agreed upon. The corporation, no doubt, will treat this new enterprise as it deserves to be, in a liberal spirit. Victoria's cold storage has already proved to be a great success. New Westminster is shortly to have one also and Vancouver could not be behind.

A well-known gentleman of Vancouver has perfected and patented a new and improved system of extracting oil and manufacturing guano out of the fish offal, and is now about to organize a company for the manufacture of the same. He has analysis of his guano from the leading professors of agricultural chemistry of both London and Edinburgh, showing it to be equal to the best fish fertilizers used in England. Should he be successful in getting up a company with the necessary capital to carry out this much desired scheme it will be the means of at once getting rid of the greatest grievance of the cannerymen, viz., the permanent disposal of the offal by utilizing the same in a practical and beneficial manner, thus adding a new industry to the country and benefiting all concerned.