

is heavier and is retained in the pores better than either sand or lime, while litharge is the heaviest and more like the natural color of the sponge than either of the other articles used. It fills the pores better and there is less chance of detecting its use than that of the other substances, but it is highly injurious. It is frequently used in increasing the weight of sponges to such an extent as to reduce the price from 50 cents to \$1 per pound. It will thus be seen that dealers and consumers need to be constantly on their guard in purchasing sponges, or to buy only of the most reputable houses. Whenever sponges purporting to be pure or natural are offered below the ruling market price of reputable houses, there is good cause for suspecting them to be adulterated.

APPALACHICOLA, FLA., May 5, 1887.

9.—STATISTICS OF THE FISHERIES OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FOR 1886.

By THOMAS MOWAT,

Inspector of the Fisheries.

Statistics of vessels, nets, establishments, and men engaged in the fisheries of British Columbia during 1886.

13 steamers and steam auxiliaries, from 3 to 60 tons	}	\$126, 000	
16 schooners, from 40 to 80 tons			
18 sloops, from 1 to 12 tons			
994 fishing boats	}	52, 465	
196 fishing canoes, cedar			
64 flat-boats and scows			7, 615
			<hr/> \$186, 080
1,066 salmon nets, 332,220 yards		123, 690	
2 herring seines		600	
36 herring nets		4, 500	
65 fish seines		13, 375	
14 eulachon nets		1, 700	
			<hr/> 143, 865
25 salmon canneries, estimated value		449, 500	
1 oil factory, Queen Charlotte Islands		10, 000	
1 floating cannery and oil factory		60, 000	
Various salting stations		20, 000	
Ice-houses and buildings for the shipment of salmon in ice		3, 000	
			<hr/> 542, 500
Total value			<hr/> <hr/> 872, 445
Sailors		167	
Fishermen		3, 608	
Native hunters		291	
Shoremen		2, 145	
			<hr/> 2, 145
Total number of men engaged			<hr/> <hr/> 6, 211

Yield and value of the fisheries of British Columbia during 1886.

Kind.	Quantity.	Value.
Salmon, salted..... barrels..	3, 006	\$25, 551
Salmon, kippered..... do.....	50	600
Salmon, fresh..... pounds..	825, 000	57, 792
Salmon, smoked..... do.....	22, 700	3, 405
Salmon, canned, cases of 4 dozen 1-pound tin-cans, each..... cases..	161, 270	838, 004
Sturgeon, fresh..... pounds..	114, 000	5, 745
Halibut, fresh..... do.....	81, 000	8, 100
Haddock, fresh..... do.....	55, 000	2, 750
Herring, fresh..... do.....	38, 000	1, 140
Herring, smoked..... do.....	4, 500	900
Smelts, fresh..... do.....	19, 000	790
Trout, fresh..... do.....	30, 750	3, 075
Eulachons, fresh..... do.....	44, 000	2, 640
Eulachons, smoked..... do.....	1, 900	380
Eulachons, salted..... barrels..	80	800
Assorted fish..... pounds..	173, 800	8, 690
Eulachon oil..... gallons..	200	200
Dogfish oil, refined..... do.....	20, 000	10, 000
Dogfish, seal, and porpoise oil..... do.....	25, 000	10, 000
Herring oil..... do.....	740	296
Sardines..... do.....		500
Crabs and prawns..... barrels..	300	2, 500
Oysters, native..... do.....		2, 100
Clams and other shell-fish..... do.....		3, 000
Fur-seal skins..... number..	38, 007	389, 070
Hair-seal skins..... do.....	3, 000	2, 250
Sea-otter skins..... do.....	25	1, 500
Fish sold in markets, not including New Westminster.....		125, 000
Estimated consumption by Chinese laborers on Canadian Pacific and Island Railway and other places.....		70, 000
Total.....		1, 577, 848
Estimated consumption by Indian population, as previously computed and revised:		
Salmon..... \$2, 732, 500		
Halibut..... 190, 000		
Sturgeon and other fish..... 260, 000		
Fish oils..... 75, 000		
		3, 257, 500
Grand total of approximate yield.....		4, 834, 848

Comparative value of yield in 1885 and 1886, exclusive of Indian consumption :

Total in 1886.....	\$1, 577, 348
Total in 1885.....	1, 078, 038
Increase in 1886.....	499, 310

From the Fraser River hatchery, in British Columbia, last season there were deposited 2,625,000 fry; and by March 15, 1887, the hatchery will be able to distribute 4,500,000 fry, all of the quinnat and suckeye species (*Oncorhynchus chouicha* and *O. nerka*).

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., February 25, 1887.

10.—AN ACT FOR SECURING STATISTICS OF THE EXTENT AND VALUE OF THE VESSEL FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever the papers of any vessel of the United States of over five tons burden, engaged in the capture or transportation of any kind of cetacea, fish, shell-fish, crus-

* This passed the Senate on February 8, 1887. In the House of Representatives on February 10, it was read twice and referred to the Select Committee on American Ship-building and Ship-owning Interests. Congress finally adjourned without passing the bill.