

*Blenheim*.—The number of fishing-boats licensed for the year was 12, employing 18 fishermen. The total quantity of fish caught was 800 cwt., valued at £2,240. Notwithstanding several long periods of bad weather, the local fishermen state that they have had a very fair year.

*Nelson*.—Sixty-two boats were licensed for fishing during the year. These include the boats engaged in fishing in Pelorus Sound and about the French Pass. The greater number of the boats licensed are owned by settlers in the outlying districts, who fish only in their spare time. The number of men exclusively engaged in fishing was 15. Approximately the quantity of fish caught on the local grounds and brought in to Nelson was 1,095 cwt., the value of which is given as £1,271. These figures do not include the French Pass catches, which are sent to Wellington. The fishing industry does not show any signs of expansion, although extensive fishing-grounds exist in the bay.

*Westport*.—The Collector reports a very poor whitebait season. The number of boats licensed and engaged part of the time in fishing was 9. There was 1 steam-trawler and 5 launches engaged in trawling, employing 10 fishermen. The quantity of fish landed (including 43 cwt. whitebait) was 1,199½ cwt.; total value, £2,002.

*Greymouth*.—The past year has been a very poor one for the local fishermen. Most of the fish sold in the shops are obtained from the trawler working from Westport. Eleven boats were licensed for fishing, and 16 men engaged (casually) in fishing and 6 others otherwise employed. Only 5 cwt. of fish was caught locally; value, £119.

*Hokitika*.—The Inspector reports that only 1 boat was licensed during the year. Two men were engaged in fishing, and the quantity of fish caught locally is given as 77½ cwt., and 980 lb. of whitebait; total value, about £147. The past season was an exceptionally poor one for whitebait.

*Kaikoura*.—The number of oil-launches licensed and engaged during the year was 23, employing 47 fishermen and 3 others in connection with the fish-freezing works. Fish have been very plentiful, good catches of groper, trumpeter, kingfish, butterfish, and blue cod being made during the greater part of the year. The quantity landed was approximately 6,265 cwt., representing a value to the fishermen of £12,308. Three powerful oil-launches were engaged in whaling last season and were successful in killing twenty humpback and one sperm whale. These yielded 63 tons of oil, the total value of which was £2,220. The sperm whale also yielded 100 gallons of spermaceti, valued at about 9s. a gallon. A safe boat-harbour is urgently required, as the present anchorage is highly dangerous in heavy weather.

*Rangiora*.—The past season has been a particularly poor one for whitebait, and also for the other kinds of fish usually caught in the Ashley estuary. The total catch, including 18 cwt. whitebait, was only 34 cwt.; value, about £295. The number of boats licensed was 18, employing 21 men.

*Kaipoi*.—The season has been a poor one both for whitebait and flounder. The total quantity brought in is given as 240 cwt., principally whitebait; value, about £2,000. Twenty-four boats (mostly rowing-boats) were licensed for fishing, employing 24 men.

*New Brighton*.—The only fishing done is whitebaiting. The quantity taken last season was 7 cwt.; value, £75.

*Southbridge (Lake Ellesmere)*.—The catch of flounder for the year was very satisfactory, although the quantity taken did not come up to the previous year. Twenty-three boats were engaged in fishing, employing 35 men. The total quantity taken for the year was 2,220 cwt., valued at £4,979.

*Lyttelton and Sumner*.—The varieties of fish taken on the local fishing-grounds were the same as in previous years. The quantity brought in for the year was 6,643 cwt., representing a total value of about £13,942. The actual number of men engaged in fishing was 30, employing 20 boats. One steam-trawler and 6 oil-launches were engaged in trawling.

*Akaroa*.—Good catches of groper, flounder, sole, tarakihi, blue cod, red cod, ling, barracouta, butterfish, moki, and crayfish were made. The total quantity brought in of all kinds of market fish caught was about 4,740 cwt.; value, about £6,370. This quantity shows a substantial increase on the previous year's catch. The number of boats licensed was 14, employing 28 fishermen.

*Christchurch*.—The number of boats licensed for fishing for the year was 184, and the number actually engaged in fishing at the different fishing-stations in the district was 122, as follows: Kaikoura, 23 boats, employing 47 fishermen; Rangiora, 18 boats, employing 21 men; Kaipoi, 24 boats, employing 24 men; Southbridge, 23 boats, employing 35 men; Lyttelton, 20 boats, employing 30 men; Akaroa, 14 boats, employing 28 men.

*Timaru*.—The report states the past season has been a very poor one on the local fishing-grounds. Fish have been scarce, and the majority of the fishing-boats have been out of commission most of the time. The number of boats licensed for the year is 20, including 1 steam-trawler and 8 oil-engined trawlers, and the number of men engaged in fishing is about 30, with 8 persons employed in other ways connected with the industry. The weight of fish brought in during the year is given as 1,600 cwt.; value, £4,000.

*Oamaru*.—Compared with last year this one shows an increase in the total quantity of fish brought in. Nine boats have been engaged in fishing, employing 18 men. The quantity of fish brought in was 3,367 cwt.; value, £3,687.

*Moeraki*.—There were 24 boats engaged in fishing, employing 36 men. The quantity of fish caught on the local grounds during the year was 3,560 cwt.; value, £4,765.

*Otago District*.—The Inspector reports a very successful year for all fishermen as regards the supply of the usual market fish obtained on the local grounds. The weather conditions have been more favourable during the greater part of the year than for several seasons, and, on the whole, fishermen have had a good year. Several of the fishermen have purchased larger boats, which enables them to go to sea and fish with much less loss of time than previously. On account of the low price obtained at the Dunedin wholesale market several of the Port Chalmers fishermen are taking their fish direct to Dunedin and selling them to the public at the wharf-landing, and one other boat sells to the public