

COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH.

ANTIGONISH COUNTY presents altogether a gratifying return. This county, it will be perceived, has produced the largest quantity of salmon of any county in the Province; whilst its yield from other branches of the fisheries has been a fair one. No violations of the law are reported to me from this county.

COUNTY OF GUYSBORO'.

GUYSBORO' COUNTY presents a highly prosperous condition of the fisheries for the past year, there having been an improvement in nearly all its branches, but especially in the yield of codfish, mackerel and lobsters. I shall again refer to the latter. No violations of the law of any importance are reported from this county.

COUNTY OF RICHMOND.

In RICHMOND the report is very favourable. The returns of cod, haddock and herring show a large increase over those of 1874; salmon and alewives proved to be about the same as last year; but the fall mackerel fishery has proved a comparative failure, owing to boisterous weather. The fish were reported to be plenty on the coast. No complaints of violations of the law are reported from this county, other than for catching lobsters below the minimum standard of measurement.

COUNTY OF CAPE BRETON.

In CAPE BRETON County the statistical returns show that the season has been a fairly successful one, and no violation of the law is reported from either of the three Overseers. I regret to say that from having been unable to visit this county, I cannot give a particular account of its condition with respect to fisheries.

COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

INVERNESS was visited by me in July, during the height of the river fishing, and I was agreeably surprised to find a state of affairs much more satisfactory than I had been led to believe was the case in former years. I found no evidence of illegal fishing where, I believe, it had in previous years been extensively practiced. I found that a few mill dams required improved fish-ways; but the general condition of the county was not unsatisfactory. There is much need of a resident Warden at Little River, Cheticamp. This is an important salmon stream. It is reported to me that illegal fishing is there freely carried on; and at present the nearest fishery officer lives over five and twenty miles distant.

The past fishing season has not been a very prosperous one in Inverness. Salmon, mackerel and alewives were a comparative failure, although it is believed that it would have been otherwise with the coast salmon had it not been for the unfavourable weather. On the other hand, the catch of codfish exceeded the average of the four past years.

COUNTY OF VICTORIA.

There has been a like result of the season's operations in VICTORIA. There has been a great and seemingly unaccountable falling off in the coast salmon fishery, as also in the netting of herring and mackerel, whilst the catch of codfish exceeded that of other years. I found the state of the rivers in this county, at the time of my visit last summer, quite satisfactory. Some attempts at poaching have been made; but generally speaking the people evince every disposition to conform to the law.

The new harbour at Cape North, the great benefit of which is being already experienced, must eventually prove to be an inestimable advantage to the fishing interests of this vicinity.