

"catch. There is the same amount of fishing material as last year, but a great part of it has not been used this season."

*Digby County.*—James H. Morehouse, Esq., the Overseer for this County says:—"I am happy to report a decided improvement at all the stations where deep sea fishing is carried on; not only has the yield been in excess of last year, but prices have ruled considerably higher, the consequence of which is not only comfort in the home of the fisherman, but a stimulus to further improve his circumstances. This is observable in the improved models and outfits in the fishing craft, as well as in their increased number at several of the stations. Digby Town, which last year had but two vessels employed in fishing, had four this season, and has now two more building. Hake, which a few years ago were considered almost worthless, are now eagerly pursued and the taking of these fish has become quite a lucrative business; the sounds and oil being about equal in value to the fish itself. But while we are thankful for the success which has attended this branch of our fishing interest, it is with profound regret that we repeat the record of last year, viz.: the total failure of the mackerel and shad fisheries at St. Mary's Bay and the herring fishery in Digby Basin. As the only means in my opinion of resuscitating the shad fishery, I would again respectfully urge the necessity of restricting the building of weirs at the head of St. Mary's Bay until after the 20th June in each year, this would save the spring shad which enter the bay for spawning early in May. In my report last year, I fully explained what seemed to me to be the cause of the failure of the herring fishery in Digby Basin. From further observation this year I am fully confirmed in these views, as well as in the means I then recommended to effect its restoration."

"Our river fisheries show encouraging signs of improvement. Trout, alewives, smelt and frost-fish, are again showing themselves in waters that had long been forsaken. At Salmon River we have signs of steady progress; the yield of salmon being considerably larger than that of last year. As all the other rivers in this County are obstructed by natural barriers over which fish cannot pass, we cannot reasonably expect much improvement in these, but it is a matter of regret that such splendid rivers as Sissaboo and Montengan unquestionably are, should be allowed to be unproductive, when for a trifling sum they could be made to add so much to the comfort of the people, and ultimately become large contributors to the resources of the country."

*Yarmouth County.*—T. B. Crosby, Esq., the Officer in charge of this County, says:—"In forwarding this my annual report and statistics, I have but little change to note, the looked for increase in catch of alewives did not occur. From some cause unknown, alewives did not strike into our river this last season in the usual quantities. Some attribute it to strong Easterly winds which prevailed during the spring. Our salmon and deep sea fisheries have been good, there being a larger catch than in former years. Although we have only 11,500 lbs. of salmon reported as exported fresh in ice, I am confident that the catch exceeds 16,000 lbs. Some of the fishermen near the mouth of the river have caught a thousand dollars worth, being more than reported for the whole district. The catch of codfish has been larger than usual, but the demand has been limited and prices low, which lowers the net gain to the fishermen. The fish ladders are not a success with us, but mill owners are willing to do what is wanted and we are trying to get one that will answer in our rivers."

*Shelburne County.*—Wm. Muir, Junr., Esq., says:—"I find that the yield of fish in our County this year is much larger than it has ever been. I am sorry to say that we have some trouble in getting the fish up Shelburne River this season. I think it is difficult to get these ladders to work well in dams that have a great head of water. The greatest trouble I have is to get my wardens to take an interest in the work. Since I have been in office I have not received a complaint from any of the wardens, but in spite of this neglect I find that we can give a pretty fair yield of fish for this County."

*Queen's County.*—S. T. N. Sellon, Esq., the vigilant and persevering Overseer for Queen's County reports as follows:—"The catch of cod and scale-fish round the shores and harbors has been very much greater than for a number of years, these fish having