

necessary for me to attend a good deal at the Inspector of Fisheries' Office; issuing licenses, answering correspondence and giving information to eastern people who were coming into the country to engage in fishing; Mr. Pittendreigh taking my place on the river during your absence. I considered it however my most particular duty to keep well informed as to salmon fishing of the Fraser River.

Quite a number of boats fished for the market and for parties dealing in fresh fish during the month of March but the canneries did not begin operations until the 20th of April, after which they worked continuously for five months and a half.

The number of boats licensed on this river during the last season was 598, against 467 for the year 1887. The fish from these boats were distributed among twelve canneries, two freezing establishments and a fish market. The pack of canned salmon was 76,616 cases against 128,806 in 1887, a falling off of 52,190 cases. The average to each cannery is however a close approximation to the averages for the correspondingly poor runs of 1876, 1880 and 1884.

|       |    |                         |              |
|-------|----|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1876, | 3  | canneries averaged..... | 3,280        |
| 1880, | 7  | do do .....             | 6,022        |
| 1884, | 6  | do do .....             | 6,401        |
| 1888, | 12 | do do .....             | <u>6,384</u> |

It will be seen that notwithstanding the number of canneries being double what they were in former poor runs, still the average is about the same. It must be remembered, however, that instead of fishing for five or six weeks as they did in former years, the fishing extended over nearly as many months. As next season will be the year for the good run of saw-quals it will be a good index of whether the Fraser River is being overfished and to what extent.

I learn that two new canneries are to be erected on the Fraser this year, but unless some of the present ones remain idle, I do not understand where room for the increase in nets is to come from. At the regulation distance apart the number of nets fished this year would extend 85 miles while there is only about 70 miles of fishing ground.

In reference to the new regulations for British Columbia, I will only say that if they are to be strictly enforced the number of guardians should be increased during the fishing season or a small steamer provided that will travel faster than a man in a row-boat can go. The current in the river runs at from four to six miles an hour and the guardian may see illegal fishing done half a mile up stream from him and his utmost exertions may not enable him to catch the offender. Perhaps taking them all round, the fishermen on this river will compare favorably with those in any other place and their employers, the canners; have always shown a disposition to respect the fishery regulations, yet there must always be exceptions, and to protect the 70 miles of fishing ground is more than two men in row boats can do efficiently. To enlarge on this fact is unnecessary, as any one giving five minutes thought must clearly understand it.

## LOWER FRASER RIVER.

BY C. H. GREEN, FISHERY GUARDIAN.

I am sorry I am unable to give a favorable report of the salmon fishing in my district this year, it being what is termed the "poor year" on the Fraser River, and it certainly kept up its reputation, for very seldom did I see enough fish in one day to keep the canneries working full time either during the Sawqual or Cohoe run, thus showing that the fish never came into the river, making the pack very much below that of last year, although more fish were brought to the canneries this year than usual, principally from Mud Bay and Semiamho Bay, where seven seines were employed during the Cohoe run in September and October. I think it would be a very good