

REPORT ON FISHERIES called for by ARTICLE 3 of FISHERY INSTRUCTIONS.

(No. 5.)

SIR,

H.M.S. *Philomel*, at Halifax, N.S., 28th July, 1870.

1. In accordance with Article 3, Fishery Instructions, I beg to report on the Stations Nos. 4 and 5. Owing to the short time I was employed on the fisheries, from June 27th to July 21st, and the fact that the fishing on the station I was employed on does not commence till the end of June or beginning of July, I have but little to communicate.

2. From information received at the Magdalen Islands, I was given to understand that the herring fishery had been a failure; owing to the quantity of ice at that place the vessels could not reach there in time, and by the time the vessels reached there the herrings had gone.

3. The mackerel fishing had commenced off the coast of Prince Edward Island about the 15th of July, and schooners were arriving constantly from the Gut of Canso, as we found when off Surveyor Point, near East Point.

4. With regard to the best means to be adopted for protection of the fisheries, I would suggest that cruisers should cruise at night-time, without lights, within the three-mile boundary. They would then be able to make seizures of interlopers and foreigners; for nothing but vigorous measures and constant seizures will ever deter the Americans from fishing.

In the day-time a chance of seizure is almost hopeless, as the vessels hover within the boundary with the main-sheet aft, head-sails down, head to wind; but on a cruiser being seen, they immediately hoist their head-sails, and get on to a debatable position; but at night-time, by putting out all lights, they might be easily detected fishing, and consequently seized; and such a course alone must be adopted to effectually protect the fisheries. Subjoined is a list of vessels boarded, and the Navigating Officer's Report on the Pilotage.

Vice-Admiral Wellesley, C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) DOUGLAS WALKER,
Commander.