

OVERSEER STYMAST, of Tabusintac district, reports a great scarcity of salmon, but other kinds of fish were plentiful. Two new lobster establishments have been built in the district, and preparations made for prosecuting this fishery on a large scale.

OVERSEER WILLSTON, of Bay du Vin, reports a most serious decrease in the catch of salmon, but other kinds of fish gave an average yield.

OVERSEER RUSSELL, of Portage Island and Burnt Church district, reports a falling off in the catch of salmon of 41,170 lbs., as compared with last year. This he attributes to a scarcity of fish, as no want of preparation or of energy on the part of fishermen was manifested. Mackerel and herring were abundant, but gaspereaux were scarce, and but few were caught. New canning establishments have been operated at Portage Island, and the lobster fishery has been prosecuted to a much greater extent than in any former year.

OVERSEER WYSE, of Chatham district, has the same story to tell of failure in the salmon fishery. He reports a great improvement in the bass fishery, which he attributes to the measures adopted for the preservation of gravid fish, and the protection of young bass from the destructive effects of bag-nets used in the smelt fishery. He recommends that the time asked by shippers for the commencement and ending of the smelt fishery be complied with, in order to prevent over-production, which keeps prices so low that no profits accrue from the business.

OVERSEER HOGAN, of Newcastle and North Esk district, reports the same failure in the salmon fishery that marks other districts. The bass fishery last winter was poor; but it opened well this winter, and at the present time is very good, and gives promise of a large yield.

OVERSEER PARKER, of Upper Nelson and Derby districts, reports the total failure of the salmon fishery, and all the overseers above him, in Blackville, Blissfield, Doaktown and the Upper South-West, repeat the same story. As salmon is the only fish caught in these districts their reports contain nothing further of interest.

#### KENT COUNTY.

OVERSEER SUTHERLAND, of the upper division, reports a decreased catch of salmon and bass; but codfish, mackerel and herring show an increase over last year's catch. The improvement in gaspereaux fishing which was noticed in his last report, has been repeated this year. The smelt fishing has been pursued on a more extensive scale and has given employment to a large number of persons. The catch of lobsters has exceeded that of any previous year, and two new canning houses are to be built, ready for operation next season.

OVERSEER GIROUARD, of Buctouche district, reports an increased catch of mackerel and an improvement in the bass fishery, which, in his district, is pursued principally with hook and line. But more attention is now given to the lobster fishery, which furnishes employment nearer home and diverts fishermen from their old pursuits. The once valuable oyster beds of Buctouche are now almost exhausted, and no hope of their improvement can be entertained under the present insufficient protection afforded them.

OVERSEER CORMIER, of the lower district, reports a fair catch of all kinds of fish. Mackerel were very plentiful, and the catch considerably exceeds that of last year. The lobster fishery is the most important one in this district and the business continues to be pursued with increased energy.

#### WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

OVERSEER DEACON, of Shediac and Cape Bald division, reports as follows:—"The catch of fish generally has been good. Mackerel were more abundant than usual, of good size and fine quality. Bass are steadily becoming more numerous. Not a very large quantity of smelts was taken last winter, as the markets became glutted as soon as the enormous catches from Miramichi were sent forward, and prices immediately fell so low that fishermen could no longer make ordinary wages. I think if the