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OUR FISHERIES.

One of the most interesting Blue Books we have had the pleasure of perusing for some time past is the Report of Mr. Whitcher, the Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries, which contains much valuable information respecting the important industry under his care.

The following table shows the total catch and value of the fisheries of Canada for the year ending 31st December, 1875.

Kinds of Fish.		Total. Quantities.
Codfish,	Cwt.	765,640
Herrings,	Brls.	309,654
Herrings, smoked,	Boxes.	643,000
Mackerel,	Brls.	123,655
Mackerel, preserved,	Cans.	61,380
Haddock,	Lbs.	4,770,040
Ling,	Cwt.	37
Pollock,	do.	44,751
Hake,	do.	46,562
Halibut,	Lbs.	613,215
Salmon pickled,	do.	5,626
Salmon fresh in ice,	do.	1,786,894
Salmon smoked,	do.	57,880
Salmon preserved,	Cans.	574,526
Alewives,	Bls.	46,253
Trout (all kinds),	Lbs.	2,109,520
Sturgeon,	Brls.	279
Bar and Whitefish,	Pieces.	300,550
Shad,	Brls.	16,084
Sardines,	do.	1,036
Eels,	do.	5,575
Pike,	do.	984
Pickerel,	do.	4,185
Bass,	Lbs.	291,386
Maskinonge,	Pieces,	1,468
Smelts,	Lbs.	1,451,800
Small Fish,	Brls.	9,363
Oysters,	do.	11,716
Mixed fish,	do.	29,759
Lobsters preserved,	Cans.	6,514,380
Seals,	Pieces,	24,369
Porpoises,	do.	104
Fish Guano,	Tons.	997
Fish used as manure,	Brls.	29,904
Cod Tongues and Sounds,	do.	2,623
Cod Roes,	do.	624
Fish Oils.	Galls.	628,152
Total values,		$10,347,886 29

Of this amount Nova Scotia contributed $5,573,851.58, New Brunswick, $2,427,654.16, Quebec, $1,594, 259.15, Ontario, $453,194, and P. E. Island, $298,927.40. In 1874 the value of the fisheries in the various Provinces was somewhat larger the figures being—Nova Scotia, $6,652,301.59, New Brunswick, $2,685,793.91, Quebec, $1,608,660.20, Ontario, $446,267.50, P. E. Island alone showing a decrease in the preceding year—$288,863.

The catch and value of fish and fish products in the counties of our own Province is given as follows.

RESTIGOUCHE.—10,000 lbs. trout, 1000 lbs. smelt, 30 barrels eels, 72,334 cans lobsters, 1000 barrels fish used as manure, valued at $51,508.50.

GLOUCESTER.—5,680 barrels alewives, 91,072 cwt. codfish, 408 bbls. cod tongues and sounds, 2,710 cwt. hake, 11,400 lbs. haddock, 3,300 lbs. halibut, 2,100 lbs. bass, 9,920 lbs. trout, 25,880 lbs. smelts, 968 bbls. eels, 4,000 bbls. oysters, 426,800 cans lobsters, 17,891 gallons fish oil, 1600 bbls. fish, used as manure. Total value, $729,061.20.

NORTHUMBERLAND.—500 boxes smoked herrings, 1,888 bbls. alewives, 2,000 cwt. cod, 20 bbls. cod tongues and sounds, 2,286 cwt. hake, 2,134 bbls. shad, 99,400 lbs. bass, 12,800 lbs. trout, 51,400 lbs. smelt, 38 bbls. eels, 3,000 bbls. oysters, 147,512 cans lobsters, 1,600 gallons fish oil, 570 bbls. fish for manure. Value, $248,904.30.

KENT.—685 bbls. alewives, 1,418 cwt. codfish, 137 cwt. pollock, 245 cwt. hake, 8,500 lbs. haddock, 11,590 lbs. bass, 3,770 lbs. trout, 745,000 lbs. smelt, 115 bbls. eels, 2,520 bbls. oysters, 822,000 cans lobsters, 775 gallons fish oil. Value, $330,241.35.

WESTMORLAND.—1,600 boxes smoked herring, 200 bbls. alewives, 50 cwt. cod, 45 cwt. pollock, 40 cwt. hake, 1,000 lbs. haddock, 2,405 bbls. shad, 3,000 lbs. bass, 5,500 lbs. trout, 258,000 lbs. smelt, 90 bbls. eels, 500 bbls. oysters, 201,800 cans lobsters, 80 gallons fish oil, 200 bbls. fish for manure. Value, $122,187.00.

ALBERT.—260 boxes smoked herring, 60 bbls. alewives, 11 cwt. cod, 7 cwt. pollock, 300 cwt. hake, 6,200 lbs. haddock, 1800 lbs. halibut, 625 bbls. shad, 650 lbs. bass, 16,000 lbs. trout, 5,000 lbs. smelt, 300 gals. fish oil. Value $10,180.25.

VICTORIA.—120 bbls. shad, 1,400 lbs. trout. Value, $3,024.

CARLETON.—600 lbs. trout, valued at $1,388, or over *two dollars per pound.*

YORK.—546 lbs. bass only, valued at $404.76. Our fishermen should find out where bass can be sold so high that it is valued at over *seventy cents per pound.*

KINGS, QUEENS AND SUNBURY.—5703 bbls. alewives, 97 bbls. shad, 2,750 lbs. bass. Value, $21,629.

ST. JOHN.—18,800 bbls. alewives, 610 cwt. cod, 160 cwt. pollock, 50 cwt. hake, 90 lbs. haddock, 1,000 bbls. shad, 4,000 lbs. bass. Value $170,422.90.

CHARLOTTE.—593,940 boxes smoked herring, 14,179 cwt. cod, 586 bbls. cod tongues and sounds, 5,631 cwt. pollock, 24,186 cwt. hake, 823,460 lbs. haddock, 11,000 lbs. halibut, 500 lbs. trout, 81,600 cans lobsters, 47,997 gals. fish oil, 180 tons fish guano, 1,000 bbls. fish for manure. Value $738,702.90.

In the recapitulation of the yield of the Fisheries for New Brunswick for 1875 we find the value of salmon put down at $184,235.85, herrings in bbls., $505,980, mackerel, $67,372. The pro rata for each County is not stated at all in the detailed return, and yet the table with these amounts left out is made to correspond with the total value of the year's yield, $2,427,654.16. The officials may be able to reconcile this apparent discrepancy, but we certainly cannot. We should like to have seen how the catch of salmon was distributed among the different counties.

GASPE.

In this Division, the total value of the product of the fisheries in 1875 was $498,255.95, showing an increase of $31,894.75 over the product of the previous year.

BONAVENTURE.

The value of the different fisheries of this Division for the year was—

		Value.
Summer Cod-fishing,	4,575 qtls.	$22,875.00
Autumn do.	5,156 "	25,780.00
Herring fishing,	2,820 bbls.	14,100.00
Mackerel do.	15 "	150.00
Haddock do.	76 qtls.	380.00
Ling do.	33 "	165.00
Salmon, (pickled)	279 bbls.	4,464.00
" (fresh in ice)	30,227 lbs.	1,511.35
" (in cans)	45,206 "	11,301.50
Trout fishing,	17 bbls.	136.00
Eel do.	11 "	132.00
Lobsters (preserved)	9,120 lbs.	2,280.00
Fish used as manure,	18,550 bbls.	4,637.50
Cod Oil,	7,160 gals.	3,580.00
Cod tongues and sounds,	8 bbls.	56.00
Total value in 1875,		$ 91,558.35
" do. do. in '74,		212,640.50
Increase,		$121,082.15

Town fly fishing for Salmon is affected with the following

	No. of Salmon.
River Bonaventure,	390
" Little Cascapedia,	60
" Grand "	4,035
" Metapedia,	995
" Upsalquitch,	1,355
" Restigouche, 1st Division,	3,315
" " 2nd do.	1,260
Tidal net fishing,	5,017
Total,	16,427

Amount of lobsters preserved, 9,120 lbs.

The falling off in the value of the Fisheries during the past year is almost entirely owing to the decrease in canned salmon and lobsters, for which in many instances remunerative prices could not be obtained by those engaged in the preserving business. Concerning this decline Mr. Whitcher says that "although there is an exceptional difference between the yield of our fisheries last year and the year before, their condition is altogether satisfactory. The fishing population, as a whole, has employed a reasonable degree of prosperity. We may safely anticipate a yearly-increasing yield from the fisheries, now that the river and Estuary nurseries have been permanently improved." The commissioner, however, is strongly of the opinion that "it will be necessary to guard with excessive and improper modes of fishing, which the competition of foreign fishermen along our shores is very likely to occasion. Already serious complaints have been received from the Bay of Fundy and elsewhere respecting the manner of conducting the herring and other fisheries by United States citizens admitted to Canadian waters under the treaty of Washington. Unless proper measures shall be adopted to restrain all parties from injurious methods of fishing, the Canadian fishermen may resort to similarly objectionable practices in self-defence."

In the face of an almost universal depression in the commercial world, it is gratifying to see by the report that the value of fish exported through the Customs up to the 30th June, 1875, exceeded in value the exports of the preceding year by $88,759. In 1874 the exports amounted to $5,292,368, and the imports to $925,672. In 1875 the exports were valued at $5,380,527, and the imports to $830,129. The increase of exports during the six months ending 31st Dec., 1875, is in greater proportion, the whole amounting to $3,502,749, and the imports to $361,913.

The total value given of fish products in 1875 does not include the fisheries of British Columbia, Manitoba and the North-West Territories. The exports of fish and oils from these countries between 30th June, 1874, and 30th June, 1875, are given in the Trade Returns as amounting in value to $134,723. It may be estimated that the value of fish entering into domestic use in these two Provinces is more than double that amount.

To this may also be added a very large amount of fish annually consumed in the Dominion, of which no account is taken. Quite a large amount of fish will also be unaccounted for by parties not over scrupulous in making short returns in order to avoid the tax, as we presume such a class of persons may be found engaged in this as well as in every other branch of public industry, the commercial millenium being only a blessing in prospective.

EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS.

The following statements exhibit the respective amounts expended and collected during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1875, and the current expenses and collections from 1st July to 31st December, 1875. The expenditure for the period first above named is subdivided for the several Provinces and services, as follows:

ONTARIO.	
Fishery Overseers' salaries and disbursements,	$8,383 61
Fish breeding,	5,635 74
	$14,019 35
QUEBEC.	
Fishery Overseers' salaries and disbursements,	$9,808 34
Fish breeding,	8,525 46
Fisheries protection vessel,	10,000 00
	$28,333 80
NOVA SCOTIA.	
Fishery Overseers' salaries and disbursements,	$12,265 86
Fish breeding,	100 00
	$12,365 86
NEW BRUNSWICK.	
Fishery Overseers' and Inspector of Fisheries' salaries and disbursements,	$10,046 88
Fish breeding,	3,743 73
	$13,790 61
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.	
Water Bailiffs' salaries,	459 54
MANITOBA.	
Salary and disbursements of Fishery Overseer,	288 65
Total expenditure,	$69,257 81

And the subsequent half year as below:

Ontario, Fishery Overseers' salaries and disbursements,	$6,883 14
Quebec, do., do.,	9,957 33
Nova Scotia, do., do.,	6,575 39
New Brunswick, do., do.,	5,676 50
Fisheries protection steamer Glendon,	14,200 00
Fish breeding,	27,365 52
Total,	$70,657 88

The collections during the fiscal year are arranged under the following heads:—Ontario—Rents, license fees, fines and confiscations, $4,478.05; Quebec, rents, licence fees, fines and forfeitures, $8,904.85; Nova Scotia, taxes on nets, fines and forfeitures, $551; New Brunswick, rents, taxes on nets, fines and forfeitures, $830.30. Total, $13,764.20.

And those for the next six months, for rents and fees, fines and confiscations, are:—

Ontario,	$3,093 43
Quebec,	4,107 34
Nova Scotia,	467 85
New Brunswick,	1,262 76
Total,	$8,931 38

These dues being payable invariably in advance, there is very little trouble attending their collection, and no arrears accrue. The whole amount collected in the last fiscal year exceeds the sum received for the previous year; but the total collection for the six months to the end of December last are somewhat less. This decrease is owing to the reduced rate of license fees charged for salmon fishing stations, because of the partial failure and depressed condition of that industry.—About six per cent. was taken off; otherwise the collections for 18 months past would considerably exceed those for the corresponding term reckoned in last year's report.

LICENSES ISSUED.

There were 497 fishery licenses issued in Ontario; 519 in Quebec, and 38 in New Brunswick, making together 1,126.

STAFF OF FISHERY OFFICERS.

Ontario, fishery overseers (*ex officio* Magistrates) and fishery guardians,	72
Quebec, fishery overseers (*ex officio* Magistrates) and fishery guardians,	66
Commander and crew of fisheries protection steamer "Glendon,"	24
Nova Scotia, Inspector, fishery overseers (*ex officio* Magistrates and fishery wardens,	217
New Brunswick, Inspector, fishery overseers (*ex officio* Magistrates) and fishery wardens,	90
Prince Edward Island, fishery overseers and water bailiffs,	18
Manitoba, fishery overseer,	1

Additions to the staff were made in 1875 as follows:—

Ontario,	8
Quebec,	19
Nova Scotia,	17
New Brunswick,	10
Prince Edward Island,	8

Making altogether 526 fishery officers now employed in the outside service.

This regular staff receives occasional aid from lock-masters on the Government canals, light-house keepers and Dominion Policemen, which arrangement saves employing in certain places other fishery officers at separate salaries.

THE SALMON FISHERY

is one of the most important branches of the Fisheries, and appears to receive the chief care of the Department. Mr. Whitcher devotes considerable attention to the gradual falling off in the yield of salmon since 1872, and argues that unless further protective measures are introduced, this industry, should the decline continue, will soon become unproductive to those engaged in it. Some years ago a similar decline was observed in many of the Canadian rivers, which (says Mr. Whitcher) were doomed to ruin. A change for the better was brought about by the strict prohibition of Sunday fishing, reducing the number of fishing stations, and limiting the number of sportsmen on the spawning pools. In 1869 and 1870, owing to these precautionary measures, streams which were all but ruined became as well stocked as when first discovered. According to the Report the result of this happy change was that people began to get jealous of the profits realized by neighboring fishermen who retained their stations during the whole run of bad seasons, political influence was brought to bear, the number of stations was increased, and finally the Sunday clause was inserted, the grasping fishermen alleging that Sunday fishing was equal to the whole week's fishing. The reason of this is said to be that "Sunday being a day of rest, well observed by cod fishermen, the tranquility around the salmon stations was greater than during any other day of the week, the fish became less wary of the nets, and were therefore caught in larger numbers." The injurious influence of this Sunday desecration was speedily seen, and in the spring of 1874 Sunday fishing was very prudently prohibited. Mr. Whitcher suggests that, in order to better ensure the enforcement of this clause, it should be made to read so as to state the precise time during which salmon nets should be raised, say from six o'clock on Saturday evening until six o'clock on Monday morning.

In order to bring about a change for the better, it is proposed to reduce the number of salmon stations in some localites, which, while it would cause temporary discontent, would, it is anticipated, ultimately result in the localities being benefited. A diagram is given showing the number of salmon stands in Gaspe Basin and estuaries. It is suggested that these stands shall be thinned out, the reduction being made by associating together the owners of different stands and granting joint licences for a reduced number of places. In this way, it is thought, the fishery could be worked more profitably, and with less expense to the fishermen. The results of this system of reducing the number of nets used in the estuaries and rivers has been practically experienced in some districts in the Province of Quebec, where since 1868 the yield has increased three hundred per cent. In 1859, when about 15,000 fathoms of nets were placed in the river Moisie, 75,000 lbs. of salmon were taken; while in 1873, with only 2,500 fathoms of nets in use the yield was 204,000 lbs. and the yield has, it is said, annually increased since the restriction of nets was introduced.

FISH CULTURE.

On this subject the Report says:

"The Dominion Government has now in actual operation several public establishments devoted to the artificial production of fish. Besides these formerly existing at Newcastle, Gaspe, Restigouche and Miramichi, this department has built and completed three other handsome and commodious establishments at Sandwich, on the Detroit River; at Tadousac on the Saguenay River; and at Bedford, on the Sackville River, near the head of Bedford Basin and only a few miles from Halifax. The capacity of the parent institution on Wilmot's Creek, in Ontario, has also been enlarged, so that in future the interior can accommodate many millions more of fish spawn, and the rearing ponds will harbour millions of young fry.—

At Newcastle, Ontario, over a million of vivified salmon eggs were deposited in a healthy state, together with 300,000 salmon trout eggs, and 200,000 whitefish eggs. Upwards of twelve million of whitefish eggs were successfully placed in the Sandwich establishment. About 70,000 eggs were deposited at Gaspe, which quantity ought to have been quadrupled but for the escape of the stock of parent salmon penned up during the summer time. I fear that accidents such as this, and the misfortunes by which last year's stock of salmon fry at Miramichi, amounting to a million and a half, was reduced to 150,000 are attributable in some degree to negligence or incompetence. The Tadousac establishment, which turned out 80,000 of last winter's hatch, has this year about 200,000 salmon eggs in excellent condition. The success of this experiment, so very encouraging in its first two seasons, is mainly due to the indefatigable exertions and warm interests bestowed on it by Senator Price and Mr. Radford, of L'Anse a L'eau.—In addition to an excellent frost-proof building, well supplied with good water and capable of holding ten millions of fish eggs, we have now a series of commodious rearing ponds, both brackish and fresh, and secure reception house at Little Islands Bay and River St. John, to catch and retain parent fish. The number of salmon ova laid down at the Restigouche works was 300,000. At Miramichi only 60,000 were procured, the sudden advent of wintry weather having prevented the gathering of any considerable stock of any spawn. The Bedford establishment has 600,000 salmon eggs in a thriving condition. This is an excellent beginning in Nova Scotia.

The whole number of young fish distributed last spring from the hatching of 1874 was 1,700,000. These were placed in various waters, as related in the reports of the several persons in charge.

RE-STOCKING STREAMS.

An experiment in re-stocking with salmon, begun three years ago at Salmon River, about 40 miles below Ottawa City, was continued last spring. Nearly 30,000 salmon fry in healthy condition were liberated at different places in the stream. This deposit makes, altogether, 47,000 little fish distributed in Salmon River. The guardians in charge of the stream report that the upper waters were crowded with young salmon in the autumn months, and that many were seen exceeding ten inches in length. It should be proved conclusively next season whether or not these youngsters will emigrate to the salt water and return, after the fashion of their kind, to the nursery waters in which they are reared though not bred. The natural instinct which leads salmon back to their native stream may possibly develope itself in a secondary manner among those artificially hatched and transferred to other waters, thus leading as adults, back to localities where they have passed the earlier stages of their existence."

Attention is drawn in the Report to the deleterious practice indulged in by mill owners in some localities, allowing the waste from their mills to be deposited in the streams on or near which their establishments are built. Examples have been made wherever the urgency of abuses demanded legal interference, but we believe there is yet much to be done in order to break down this pernicious practice—one which affords accommodation to the few to the great and lasting injury of the many.

Mr. Whitcher gives the public the benefit of his opinions of

RIPARIAN CLAIMS.

"Many of the occupants of salmon fishing stations in New Brunswick claim exclusive ownership and the free use of salmon fishery privileges in the waters opposite to their own lands. Claims of riparians to fishing rights connected with the foreshores have been frequently adjudicated upon in the Courts of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. These tribunals have invariably maintained that the soil of public navigable waters belongs to the Crown, and the right of fishing belongs to the public. Private individuals have, on numerous occasions, claimed them both, but have entirely failed to establish such claims. The Crown grants of lands on navigable streams are bordered by the water's edge, and in tidal frontages by high water mark. In the case of some of the Seigniories bounded by the River St. Lawrence, the right of fishing within described limits was expressly granted by the Crown of France to the Seigniors; but unless it was so specifically conveyed, even these lordly proprietors failed to establish any legal claim to the exclusive use of fishing privileges in connection with their lands, notwithstanding that they had for from sixty to two hundred years exercised such assumed ownership, collected dues from fishermen and tenants, and bought and sold fishing privileges. It was at the express instance of a Senator, who was himself owner of a Seigniory in which exclusive fishing rights existed under Crown title, and who desired to ensure such grants against any obligation to take and pay for leases or licenses, that the words excepting "where the exclusive "right of fishing does not already exist by law," were inserted into the *Fisheries Act* of 1869.—This reservation was quite superfluous; but as a distinct exception limited to special titles, it tends to strengthen the rule. The whole tenor of that statute is an authoritative denial of any other private claims to fishing privileges, either absolute or incidental, express or implied, in the public navigable waters of the Dominion. Sections 3 and 19 are remarkably explicit in this respect.

There have been in modern times no grants of exclusive fishing rights to individuals in the province of New Brunswick similar to those formerly made by the French. It has always been accepted and acted upon as a recognized principle in administering the Fishery Laws, that the fisheries are a public property which the Crown is now empowered by Act of Parliament to control temporarily, but not in any case to alienate. In exercising this authority the leading object of all concerned has been to preserve and improve these public fisheries. The next aim has been to promote the interests of practical fishermen, and to protect them in the just use of the fishing privileges secured to them by Common Law. And last, though by no means least, the Government has scrupulously endeavoured to give effect to the equitable claims of all persons who have occupied or purchased either lands adjoining or forming fishing stations, or fishing privileges co-terminous with their frontages. Peculiarities of situation, especial circumstances, prior occupancy and accustomed usage have all received special consideration. But extravagant and illegal assumptions, altogether inconsistent with public rights and incompatible with due regulation of the fisheries have necessarily been set aside. The parties, therefore, who now lay claim to exclusive rights of fishing in front of their own lands ought either to be required to prove some express legal conveyance of fishing privileges from public authority, or be made to understand that they are fighting with shadows. Taking licenses or paying a tax on nets or on catch could not by any possibility invalidate a legal title where such exists, nor constitute an attornment to the Crown. If, on the other hand, they possess no exclusive deed, they should seek to procure rather than strive to evade titles for the sole use of their stations. There is in neither case any deprivation of private right. And whether absolute owners of the privileges or licensees by preference, they should be willing to contribute a fair percentage towards the cost of rendering the advantages they enjoy permanently and increasingly valuable. As the matter now stands they seem to be ready and eager to spend untold money in litigation, where no justice and no interference whatever with their lawful claims are intended; but are "unable and unwilling," as stated in several petitions to Parliament and the Crown, to pay for peaceable occupation, protection and increase. The salmon fishers and riparians of Gaspe and Bonaventure, and on the Quebec side of Restigouche, who once considered themselves equally entitled to hold their fishing stands free of title and of charge, have been paying license fees for years past, and have enjoyed the protection and increase incident to the system, might justly complain if mere assertions of right on the part of their neighbours were allowed to prevail in securing exemption from burdens, however slight, which they have borne from the outset, whilst these other salmon fishermen have enjoyed concurrently with themselves the benefits of public organization and outlay."

The question of Riparian Rights has agitated the public mind of New Brunswick for some time past. The fishermen of this and the adjoining Counties in the North have for many years enjoyed undisputed possession of certain fishing privileges which they have looked upon as their rights, and no independent man will or can blame the fishermen for endeavoring to ascertain whether such rights are vested in the owners of lands having fishing fronts, or whether such rights belong to the public. They have a *right* to know, and the matter is now in a fair way of being amicably settled, and should the decision be even adverse to the opinions held by many of our fishermen, we fail to see how their position, (according to the Chatham "ring" sheet) will necessarily "not be an enviable one." The wish or desire is sometimes father to the thought, and from the tenor of the last article from the pen of the Manager, we draw the conclusion that worthy personage would enjoy the situation amazingly should any trouble ensue. It may suit his purpose to "hound" our representative, (in his usual insidious style) and act the part of a would be political assassin, for in so doing he is only furthering the designs of those who employ him, but his insignificant onslaughts upon a gentleman who has taken a great deal of trouble in order to bring this matter to a termination, only make him (the Manager) appear ridiculous in the eyes of the public. Our member can afford to laugh at the miserable attempts made to injure him in the eyes of his constituents, having long ago gained that "circle" to which the Manager alludes, but has never yet entered.

The trouble which has arisen in this matter must be placed where it properly belongs, at the feet of the Government. Had they not been tainted with cowardice, they never would have sprung upon the country the Fishery Regulations, involving heavy taxation of the produce of some fisheries, in the manner they did. While the Government, by Act of Parliament, are empowered temporarily to control the fisheries, we maintain that no material change, affecting so important an industry, more particularly such sweeping changes as were introduced last Spring, should be made unless by authority of Parliament. It may be that the Government, notwithstanding their boasted strength, were afraid to run the risk of asking Parliament to consent to the new departure; indeed this opinion gains strength daily. Respecting Riparian Claims the Government appear to be as much in the dark as the fishermen, or they would long ago have pressed the regulations, despite the opposition offered. The fact of the matter is, that with respect to the fishery tax lately imposed, the Government were altogether too one sided, legislating against New Brunswick alone, and exempting Nova Scotia, P. E. Island, Manitoba and British Columbia, and in order to justify the tax used us an argument that it had been extended to Ontario, where, according to the Departmental Report, *not one dollar's worth of salmon was taken in* 1875. This argument is therefore a barren one, salmon not entering to any great extent into the products of that Province. Whatever future action the Government may take we hope that isolated legislation will be omitted from the programme. The fishermen of this Province think it hard that they shall be *compelled to take out licenses* to fish in front of their *own* properties, where they have enjoyed the right for almost a century past. They can of course only claim such rights as are legal, and it is therefore for the best interests of the public that their legal rights shall be fairly laid down for the government of this and succeeding generations. Should the fishermen hold wrong opinions, they will, we believe, cheerfully submit to the decision given, and we do not believe that on this account the Government would use their power to harass the fishermen, or in any way to make their position an unenviable one. We repeat that all this trouble could have been avoided had the Government pursued the proper course of asking Parliament to sanction their regulations. The question of riparian claims once settled, we have no doubt that that harmony which is so conducive to the successful carrying on of any branch of the public service, will again exist between the fishermen and the Government.

The Mails to Fredericton.

In a recent issue we called attention to the fact that the postal accommodation between Newcastle and Fredericton had been somewhat curtailed. The cutting off of one mail per week on this route is a great injustice to a section where a very large amount of business is done, and we do not wonder that the people are moved by feelings of indignation. The paltry amount thereby saved to the department is but a small matter when compared with the loss such a saving entails on the people residing along the route, owing to the curtailment of postal accommodation they once enjoyed. While we admit that economy should be continually put in practice in every branch of the public service, we believe that such economy as has recently been instituted here is not consistent with public interests. The Department cannot put on the three mails per week each way, the difficulty can be met in this way.—Let the route be divided into two contracts—the one extending from Newcastle to Boiestown, the other from Fredericton to Boiestown. As the bulk of the business is done between this place and Boiestown, this portion of the route to have three mails per week each way, and from Boiestown to Fredericton, two mails per week. We believe such an arrangement would give general satisfaction.

Fishery Meeting at Hardwicke.

Our Hardwicke Correspondent furnishes the following account of a meeting recently held in Hardwicke.

HARDWICKE, 19th April, 1876.

Knowing the deep interest you take in the Fishery question, and that you are ready at all times to advocate the rights of fishermen, I send you a brief report of a public meeting that was held in Hardwicke on the 27th of April. The meeting was called for the purpose of electing a committee of three to communicate and conter with the Hon. P. Mitchell, as to the best steps to be taken, to have a representative case prepared to submit to the Supreme Court of the Dominion, and to authorise the said committee to collect funds to defray expenses. T. B. Williston was elected chairman and J. B. Williston, (Councillor) Secretary. Messrs. Jonathan Noble, Daniel Lewis and Alexander G. Williston were unanimously elected as the committee. The day of the meeting was a very stormy and disagreeable one, but nevertheless it was largely attended by the leading fishermen of the parish. The parish of Hardwicke has taken a leading position in this matter, and it is expected that the fishermen in the other parishes who claim riparian rights, will follow the example set them by Hardwicke, and show by their actions that they appreciate the efforts made by our representative in the Commons on their behalf. A vote of thanks was given the chairman, and three hearty cheers for the Queen and the meeting adjourned.

The following resolutions were moved by Alexander G. Williston, and seconded by John Williston, Esq., Councillor Williston, Jonathan Noble, John Noble, Phineas Gulliver, Edward Gulliver, Daniel Lewis, Donald M'Donald, and J. G. Williston, and passed section by section, unanimously.

Resolved, That it is deemed advisable by this meeting to have a representative case prepared between the fishermen of New Brunswick and the Dominion Government, to submit to the Supreme Court of the Dominion for the purpose of ascertaining and determining the Riparian Rights of the fishermen, and in regard to the nature of the privileges heretofore enjoyed by them, either by virtue of their grant to the lands, or by their use and occupation of the fishing grounds in connection with and adjacent to their lands, or by virtue of the Government recognition, and rules and regulations made in regard thereto.

Resolved, That a committee of one or more persons be appointed to co-operate with the fishermen in other districts for the purpose of procuring legal assistance in the preparation of such a case, and in procuring counsel to argue the case so prepared before the Supreme Court of the Dominion or other competent authority, and to authorize them to take all such steps as may be necessary to bring the question to a final issue and determination. That the said committee be appointed to correspond and communicate with the Hon. P. Mitchell, and confer with him and others as to the best steps to be taken and the Counsel to be employed on behalf of the fishermen of New Brunswick. That for the purpose of carrying out the intention of the foregoing resolutions, the said Committee are hereby authorized and requested to collect funds towards the preparation of the case and arguing the same before the said Supreme Court or other competent authority. That the thanks of this meeting are hereby tendered to the Hon. Peter Mitchell for his able and persistent advocacy of the rights of the fishermen of New Brunswick and for the interest he has taken in behalf of their rights and privileges.

And be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Hon. Peter Mitchell and a copy to be forwarded to the *St. Lawrence Advance* and the *Union Advocate* for publication.

School Examinations.

We notice by the *Advance* that the Primary School taught by Miss Alexander at Chatham, was examined on Wednesday last. The Advanced School, taught by Miss Williston, was examined on Thursday.—Both these examinations passed off in a most creditable manner, and were witnessed by the Trustees and a number of visitors.

A correspondent forwards us a brief account of another examination.

"On Friday the classes taught by Mr. M'Alpine in the Grammar and High School Department, were examined by several of the Grammar and High School Trustees, and a number of other visitors.

In this Department there are a first and second class taught in each of the following branches, viz: reading, writing, grammar, geography, history, arithmetic, geometry, French and Latin, and one class in Greek. The examination began at 10, and lasted for 4 hours and a half, and gave much satisfaction. Great progress has been made since the last half yearly examination, showing that time and attention have been given to their duties both by the master and pupils. The art of reading well, which is looked upon now more than ever as a most important part of education, should have a higher place in this School than appears to be given to it, and although some progress has been made there is still room for improvement. In all the other branches the pupils excelled, particularly in arithmetic, geometry and the classics, and at the close they were highly complimented by the Rev. W. Wilson.

Robbery.

On Friday night last the freight house at the Newcastle station was forcibly entered by cutting out a pain of glass from one of the windows, through which an entrance was effected. The window was then raised, and the parties abstracted a trunk of boots belonging to Mr. M. Hickie, of Chatham, and a case of brandy belonging to Hon. Wm. Kelly, of Chatham. The theft was discovered between 5 and 6 o'clock Saturday morning by Mr. John Johnson, one of the employes.—Mr. Fleming at once engaged Mr. F. Matthews (late of the Police Force) to work up the matter. About noon of Saturday a pair of men's boots and one woman's boot was found near the residence of S. Thomson, Esq., and on Sunday morning, between 4 and 5 o'clock, four pairs of boots were found on the bank near the Methodist Church. About two hours after, a girl handed Mr. Matthews a pair of men's shoes and two old boots, which had been found in the lot near the residence of R. R. Call, Esq. In the afternoon the trunk which had contained the boots was found by a boy named Fair in a field in rear of Ledden's barn, about 300 or 400 yards from the highway leading to Douglastown. A pair of boots was also found under Ledden's barn by Constable Wm. Cottier. The case which had contained the brandy was found by Policeman Cassidy in a ditch near the railway crossing adjacent to Ledden's barn. Several parties are suspected, and it is probable that arrests will be made to-day or to-morrow.

School Examination at Nelson.

The examination of Nelson School, District No. 2, taught by Miss Maggie M'Donald, came off on the 28th inst, and was creditable to the teacher and pupils.

The pupils are rapidly progressing in study since the present teacher took the school, the number on the register being 42, 35 of whom were present at the examination. The branches in which they were examined were reading, spelling, dictation, writing, geography, grammar, arithmetic and physical exercises, etc., etc.

Several maps were shown, drafted by Rebecca Vye, Clementine Robinson, Susan Ambrose and Leslie Flett, being the first maps drafted by the pupils of the said school and were highly praised by the Trustees and visitors. A number of dialogues and select pieces were recited, which were very amusing. Several addresses were delivered by the Trustees and visitors in favor of the teacher and pupils. The examination being satisfactory to all present, they adjourned, wishing the teacher good success for the next term.

GEO. M'KAY.
THOMAS AMBROSE, } Trustees.
JOSEPH BATEMAN,
Nelson, April 28th, 1876.

Items From Chatham.

Wild fowl are abundant at the mouth of the river.

The tug *Relief* steamed from her winter quarters to Shirreff's wharf on Monday.

Thomas Haviland's ferry boat is ready to run, but owing to the ice in the slip on the north side, which the tide will not move, being frozen to the bottom, will not run for a week.

A young married man was arrested here on Saturday, charged with committing a rape on a young girl of the town, 14 or 15 years of age. The prisoner was examined before Justice Blair, when the prosecution fell through for lack of proof, and he was accordingly discharged.

Chatham has four milk men delivering milk every morning, at 6 cents per quart.

Muirhead's mill commenced work on Saturday. Snowball's on Monday. Loggie's rotary mill commenced cutting deals to-day, Tuesday, 2nd.

Nothing plentiful in Chatham but bad weather and rum.

Accidents.

Last Wednesday evening a child belonging to James Norman, engineer at Mr. Flett's mill, Nelson, while playing among some piles of burning rubbish, got so badly burned by her clothes taking fire, that she died about 24 hours after the accident.

On Thursday last Patrick Flood, while working at the double edger at Guy, Stewart & Co.'s water mill, had his thigh bone fractured about mid-way between the hip and thigh, by a piece of board flying from a saw.

On Monday evening a man named DePlacey received a very severe lacerated wound of the hand at Mr. Snowball's mill.

About the same time a son of Mr. Burns, ship-builder of K. P. Burns, Esq., M. P. P., fell while carrying some water into the house, and had his left collar bone broken.—The four last named cases are doing well under the care of Drs. Benson.

On Saturday last a young lad named John Lawlor, while working at one of the gangs in Ritchie's mill, used his right foot as a sawdust scraper, and got his toes badly smashed. His father took his place, and notwithstanding the accident to his son, made a similar use of his foot. He had not been working long before the big toe of his right foot disappeared beneath the gate, the other toes being considerably crushed. Both parties were cautioned when the carelessness they exhibited was observed by the workmen.

Kent County Items.

(From the Post.)

SHIPBUILDING IN KENT.—Robert Brown, Bass River, is building a large vessel.—J. D. M'Donald, Richibucto, has the frame of a ship put at Pitts' Point.—H. O'Leary's new vessel will be launched in August.—Messrs. Jardine's new vessel will be got off in June, when another one will be put on the stocks.

Lumbering.—Geo. M'Leod, Esq., has logs enough in Kent County this season to saw and ship 17,000,000 feet of lumber.

Lobsters.—H. O'Leary, Richibucto, expects to put up 300,000 this this summer.

☞ At the sale of the "Blink Bonnie" property, at Chatham on Tuesday of last week, Mr. Henry Muirhead, son of Senator Muirhead, became the purchaser, at $3,350.

"TWA HOURS AT HAME."—Many of our readers will be pleased to see by advertisement, that Mr. Kennedy, the Scottish vocalist, assisted by members of his family, will give entertainments at Newcastle, Chatham and Bathurst, commencing in the Masonic Hall here on Thursday, 11th. Our people were delighted with Mr. Kennedy when he last visited Miramichi, and we have no doubt that very large audiences will greet him at the places named. From the Toronto *Globe* of the 11th inst. we take the fellowing extract:—

"TWA HOURS AT HAME."—Seldom has a larger or more enthusiastic audience been inside the walls of Shaftesbury Hall than that which last evening greeted Mr. Kennedy and family in their presentation of Scottish song and story. Every inch of room in the body of the hall and the galleries was occupied, and every one present was delighted, if one might judge by the frequency and heartiness of the bursts of applause that rang through the hall. The programme was one that included the choicest specimens among the various varieties of Scottish melodies, and at the same time showed to the greatest advantage the versatility of talent which characterises the Kennedy family. That Mr. Kennedy's vocal powers have not deteriorated in the slightest was abundantly ev