

in this district are all more or less obstructed by mill dams. In some cases improvement is necessary in the fish-ladders, which I hope to have made next season."

*Hants County.*—Timothy B. O'Brien, Esq., the officer in charge of the Eastern district of this county says:—"I have but a meagre report to make regarding the fisheries of my section of the County during the past season, in comparison with previous ones. I am sorry to inform you that there was a decrease of at least one-third, and the fish taken were of an inferior quality; but fortunately for those engaged in this branch of industry the prices realized were fully as good as those of the previous year. The laws, I am happy to state, have been pretty generally observed, but of course there have been some attempted violations. At the commencement of the season some of the fishermen between Noel and Walton refused to place proper gates in their weirs, but on my threatening them with the full penalties of the law they provided suitable gates and no further trouble resulted. The fishermen generally acknowledge the utility of the fishery laws and believe that if they are properly carried into effect great benefits will result."

*Kings County.*—John E. Starr, Esq., the Overseer for this County reports as follows:—"I am sorry to report that my returns are considerably less than for several years past, in consequence of the almost total failure of the shad fishing, which is usually by far the most important branch of the fisheries of this County; but from some cause very few fish appear to have visited the Bay of Fundy or Minas Basin the past summer, and what have been taken are very inferior in quality. Herrings, however, have been abundant and fat, and in Medford, Pereaux and Scott's Bay, large quantities have been smoked; cured in this way they meet with a ready sale at remunerative price. But in many places on the bay shore where the fishermen have never been in the habit of smoking their herrings they appear to have been discouraged from attempting to catch many in consequence of the high price of salt, and small prices realized for the fish caught the previous season. Line fishing has been more successful and nearly double the catch of last year is reported. The fishing in the Gaspereaux River has not been as good as usual, owing to the scarcity of alewives. A good deal of jealousy exists here between the fishermen on the lower part of the river and those farther up. The regulations allow drift nets in the mouth of the river as far up as the lower bridge, which, the fishermen above are very positive frighten away the fish, driving them back into the basin; while the drift men as stoutly declare that the obstructions above destroy the fishing. There is much truth in what each says in regard to the other, and there can be no doubt that the river is over fished. The water being high in the spring, a fair number of spawning fish succeeded in finding their way up to the lakes, and an unusual number of young ones went down this autumn. The dam built across this river by Messrs Benjamin & Co., is provided with a fish ladder of the most approved description; the foot of the ladder being at the bottom of the dam, the top or head of it up in the pond above. There appears to have been quite as many salmon as usual in this river, and a good many illegal traps are used in catching them. Those most common are a sort of net called a fyke, which is used in connection with a wall of some sort; being set at night and carefully hidden from view at the break of day, they are difficult to discover. I found one of these fykes set in broad daylight, and I hope by a personal supervision of this river to be able to abate this nuisance hereafter. I visited the head waters of the Annapolis River and found that several saw mills were allowing sawdust to fall into the river. I gave the owners notice to make preparations to save it before the sawing for the autumn commenced which they promised to do."

*Annapolis County.*—W. T. Carty, Esq., says:—"Salmon are decidedly on the increase in the main river, and I trust very soon to see the fruits of my labor in all the streams where salmon formerly abounded. The fishways are in good condition except at Lawrence-town and on Nictaux River, both of which dams are yet unfinished. I have had to prosecute several mill owners for wilfully putting sawdust and rubbish into the streams. The bay shore fishing differs from last year, the fishermen have mostly left off fishing for herring as the products barely paid expenses last year. Some 1,500 barrels were not disposed of as late as last June, but hake, halibut and cod have exceeded last year's