

everything is done as it should be. He made several trips on Sundays to the different fishing grounds to see if nets were set, but never detected any illegal proceedings.

Overseer Francis Quinan, on comparison of the years, finds a balance in favour of last. Salmon and mackerel were short this year; but on the other hand there was an increase of herring, codfish, haddock and smelts. Of the fine run of herrings which used to visit Sydney River annually between the 1st and 20th of July, there has not been a trace seen this season. A jam on Black Brook caused a good deal of trouble, and after vainly endeavouring to get the free assistance of neighbours, Mr. Quinan had to make a small outlay, the details of which have been forwarded to the Department. Mr. Quinan also reports having had a fish-ladder erected on another of the principal streams. Also, that but one case of poaching came under his notice, but that he was unable to secure proof to convict the offender.

VICTORIA COUNTY.

Overseer Donald McRae, Jr., reports quite an improvement regarding salmon rivers of his district; larger numbers of these fish visiting them at spawning time from year to year. This cheering result is undoubtedly due to the wise system of protection which the provisions of the law supply. There is now no further occasion to doubt that this source of wealth is fast recovering. Almost every Warden reports favourably on the steady improvement of their respective districts. The public in general now realize the fact that a strict observance of the law is conducive to their own interests; hence there is less difficulty in enforcing its provisions. Net fishing was not good during the first part of the season, but improved later, and on the whole it turns out nearly an average catch.

INVERNESS COUNTY.

From the western division of this county, Overseer John Cameron reports the catch of all kinds of fish as being less this year than last. There were no violations of the law brought under his notice. Some of the Wardens are doing their duty well, but this Overseer regrets others do not show the attendance their offices require. Some difficulty was at first experienced with proprietors of mills in compelling them to keep sawdust and rubbish out of the rivers; but after being threatened with fines, boxes were made and this nuisance mostly done away with. Mr. Cameron reports the following rivers without Wardens, viz.: "Graham's, McDonald's, McDougall's, and Little Judique River; also two rivers at Whychogomah." A good fish-way was built at S. E. Mabou by Mr. Benjamin Worth; but that put up by Mr. Colin Chisholm at S. W. Mabou is but a miserable affair and will require improvements. At River Inhabitants, Mr. Donald Cameron, who refuses to comply with the law in this respect will have to be dealt with.

Mr. A. Ross, Overseer for the northern division, reports the catch of codfish at some stations as larger than last year, and at others a shade lower; but on the whole an average yield. But for the unusually stormy fall, the probability is that this district would have experienced one of the most successful seasons ever known for codfish. Mackerel and herring were scarce, amounting almost to a total failure. A few salmon were caught along shore, but in the Margaree River they were scarce. Sportsmen visiting this locality from the Provinces and United States were much disappointed. Canning of salmon in former years gave employment to several persons, and amply remunerated those engaged in the business; but this year the factories were closed in consequence of the scarcity of fish. The alewife fishery was a total failure this year, no cause being assigned to it. Overseer Ross reports upon trawl fishing in the bays and along the shores as follows: "After a very careful investigation of the subject I have come to the conclusion that it is a very great injury to the fisheries of our coast, for the following reasons, viz.: trawls are set on Saturday and left so during Sunday; many fish disengage themselves from the trawls, and in several instances are so cut and mangled as to die in the water.