

protect against poachers; its banks on both sides for long distances being covered with bushes and second-growth of forest. Having received the necessary permission, I engaged Timothy Patton and Wesley Mattinson as night watchers; they did good service and efficiently performed their duties. John W. Moore was appointed Warden for this river, vice David Stewart resigned, and has efficiently performed his duty. He seized eleven salmon nets this fall. He has about ten miles of river to guard, and having to hire assistance, deserves some addition to his salary. The night watchers and Warden Fillmore also seized about twenty salmon nets. Salmon were plentiful in Shinemicas River and River Philip after the fall rains. One hundred salmon were secured from the latter stream for the purpose of supplying spawn to the hatching house at Bedford Basin.

"In addition to the lobster factory at Pugwash, others were put up at Wallace and Tidnish. The latter were in operation only late in the season, but did a good business for the short time they worked."

Mr. Hingley further remarks that the Fisheries Act forbids the taking of salmon after the 15th of August, and as these fish do not go up our rivers until the fall rains are over, say during the latter part of September or first of October, it follows that the Act becomes virtually a total prohibition, and deprives numbers of poor persons living along the rivers, of what was, to them, an important addition to their mode of living; the old regulations giving until the 20th October. The Act, as applies to the Bay of Fundy and Atlantic shores, gives the inhabitants of these places ample time to secure their supply, whilst, at the same time, protecting the fish. Mr. Hingley suggests that some provision be made so as to have the close season for salmon beginning later in the season in the streams of the Straits of Northumberland, or in such as are effected in a similar manner to those of the eastern section of Cumberland.

COLCHESTER COUNTY.

Overseer Pollock reports that there were not as many shad caught on the lower Stewiacke as last year; the water being high when the fish visited this river. Shad generally make their appearance in the Stewiacke about the 10th May; going up from 15 to 20 miles, and returning by the 1st June, and by the 20th all have left the river. Few salmon were taken for the same reason as above, but after the close season, the water being low, a great many fish could be seen moving up stream, and thousands reached their spawning grounds safely. The fish caught in this river are chiefly by the inhabitants for their own use, and by a few sportsmen. A fish-pass been made over the dam on Brookfield Brook. It is presumed to be efficient, but the fact has not yet been decidedly ascertained.

Overseer Blair advances similar reasons for a small catch of salmon in his district, and thinks it also prevented poachers from attempting their deprivations. The way the law was enforced against these fellows last year, contributed not a little to the disappearance of poaching. He also writes that he visited Green Creek, and made a thorough examination of that stream.

Overseer Davison, from the upper Economy district, reports a decrease in the quantities of all kinds of fish taken this year. Shad, which is the principal fish taken in this locality, were of very fine quality. Mr. Davison further adds that the sale of fresh fish is becoming a better business than formerly, especially in the eastern end of his district, where the Intercolonial Railway affords greater facilities for transporting them to different parts of the county than the western enjoys. Some improvements were made in fish-ways; a new one having been erected on the Portauisque River, and that on Economy River having been altered. In both cases they will prove efficient for the ascent of fish. The law seems to be respected, no violations having come under this Overseer's notice. Mr. Davison hopes the time will soon arrive when fishermen will recognize its utility and look upon it as a protection rather than an invasion of their rights.