

hundred and twelve salmon ; they go much further up stream than I went. A great many salmon have been taken outside the harbor, and along the shore ; these are chiefly put up in tins and shipped to the United States."

William Grant, Esq., Overseer for the Southern district of Inverness County says:—
 " I beg to report that in the river fisheries there is evidence that the system of protection is working to advantage. The wardens discharge their duties well. Torching and night spearing is now seldom practised, and I have not heard of a net being set contrary to the instructions given. The coast fisheries this season have decreased, particularly those of herring and mackerel. The herring fishery in this district is of short duration, and alewives do not resort to this coast much."

You will observe that every Overseer in the foregoing report urges the appointment of more wardens. The fact is, our rivers are so numerous and small, that they are subject to very many abuses which are not practised on larger streams. Fish are much more easily taken on small streams, and poachers do not run so much risk of being caught ; hence the necessity for local wardens. The foregoing reports speak very encouragingly of the enforcement of the laws, and the consequent improvement of the fisheries on very many of our rivers ; but while much has been done there is yet much to do. The sportsmen for instance complain bitterly that the laws are not enforced as they should be, and if I have been rightly informed some formal complaints have been sent to head quarters on this subject. I would here urge the necessity of a thorough examination of the various districts throughout this Province by the Provincial Officer, as well to examine the fish-ladders as to instruct the local officers in their duties, and to personally enquire as to the progress made in improving the rivers. Overseers should be allowed to hold their own courts, without the assistance of other Justices of the Peace, as the system of appointing Magistrates has been so abused in this Province by the different political parties, that the bench is crowded with men totally unfit for the position they hold, and it is often impossible to get justice at their hands.

There should also be some arrangement made whereby certain fishery berths in the shad as well as salmon fisheries should be sold to the highest bidder, as this is the only way to settle existing disputes, which are and will be a continual annoyance to officers as well as to the Department. The parties interested in most cases recommend this mode of getting rid of the difficulties. The mode of taking shad throughout the Bay of Fundy and its tributaries requires a thorough investigation and restriction. This important fishery is continually declining in its yield, and, like the herring fishery of Digby Basin, is in danger of being completely annihilated.

In addition to the above suggestions made by Mr. Rogers, in which I fully agree, I would respectfully refer you to the concluding remarks of my last annual report, which, as they are more applicable now, and call more urgently for adoption, I may be excused for repeating, with some additional observations which coming events and the present aspect of our fisheries appear to call for.

The destruction of young shad and herrings by the use of brush weirs, is a subject for serious consideration. In former reports I have dwelt upon the matter at considerable length, and it is a question for your Department to decide, whether the public interest will not be best consulted by their total abolition, and by the fishing being confined entirely to the use of nets. There can be no question that the measure will greatly increase the quantity and quality of shad. Both in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the salmon, shad, herring, and gaspereau fisheries are pursued by means of brush weirs to a large extent, and no doubt their abolition would for a time cause great inconvenience, and perhaps loss, and it would be sure to cause very great and general dissatisfaction in all localities where