

tain torrents descend with great rapidity. The streams swell sometimes rising from 2 to 5 feet, and after the rain ceases, subsiding rapidly. There is no steady current of water supplied from distant lakes. It becomes necessary, therefore, to preserve with great care all the water after the first rush of a freshet is past. If a fish-way were made at the bottom of one of our mill-dams, 3 feet square, it would practically destroy our mills. They could not work, except during the height of the spring and fall freshets. On the French River, and the small streams emptying into it, there are 20 mills. The average produce of these mills is probably from £150 to £200 a year; directly and indirectly they form a source of support to a large body of people. To apply the law to the dams on this river, by putting in such fish-ways as Mr. Gough describes, would be to confiscate property worth many thousands of pounds, and reduce to indigence a large portion of the most industrious and useful classes in the county.

The fish-ways to which Mr. Gough refers, and the pier which he recommends, are not applicable to our northern rivers. They may suit the western rivers where the waters are warmer and deeper, and the climate less severe, but will not suit us. The piers could not stand. In winter they would be surrounded and contracted by solid ice, and in the spring would be lifted and removed. The ice is immensely powerful in this way. I have seen it operate to extract trees firmly fixed in the ground by long and spreading roots. I have known cases where the ponds have been made by putting a dam in a suitable place across a hollow ground which has been previously wooded, and the wood chopped down, leaving stumps standing. The ice surrounding these stumps, and embracing them, has lifted them up in the spring, and I have known dams destroyed by the holes made in this way, by drawing up the roots of trees which extended under the dams.

The salmon come into the rivers that empty into Tatamagouche harbour, with the first freshet after the middle of September, and leave in the early part of November.