

morants of Gaspé seriously turn their attention to fish of economic importance their possibility of damage could be considerable.

In the vicinity of Gaspé and various other places on the coast the salmon (*Salmo salar*) is an economically important fish and furnishes livelihood to a large number of the inhabitants.

The mouths of the salmon-frequented streams are lined with their full legal quota of nets which supply the fish to the general market, bringing good prices and furnishing business and profit to the fisherman, the middleman, the retailer, and to the common carriers connecting them. The streams themselves are owned by, or leased to, private individuals and angling clubs, and are, therefore, not open to public fishing. The law allows only fly fishing upon them, the catch, therefore, is limited and cannot be looked upon as an economically important food supply. However, the owners of the streams are necessarily men or clubs of wealth and distribute considerable money in the immediate neighbourhood, besides paying a comparatively high rental to the Provincial Government for the privilege. Club houses are built, canoes and outfits bought, guardians and wardens salaried throughout the year, and numbers of guides employed intermittently during the season. Food supply for members has also to be provided on a rather elaborate scale, most of which is procured locally, and general service paid for. Added to these expenses, the railway fares and expressage necessary to transport men and their trophies to and from the ground, and the innumerable other ways in which wealth, when on a holiday, distributes money totals far beyond the mere food value of the fish actually taken in the river and forms an important item in the welfare of the community.

There may be another side to the story, of course. The food supplied to society in general may be a mere bagatelle compared with the effort and money spent in obtaining it and may involve economic waste. However, be this as it may, the fact remains that the angling interests are esteemed of extreme importance to the local communities about the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the possibility of cormorants being harmful to their welfare demands careful investigation.