

COUNTY OF DIGBY.

In DIGBY COUNTY I have also to report the result of the year's fishing as less favourable than usual. The herring fishery, usually one of the most profitable in this county, may even be counted a comparative failure. On the other hand the salmon and shad fisheries of St. Mary's Bay have improved, whilst the indications of a revival of the mackerel fishery in the same waters are cheering. The great falling off in the product of the herring fishery of Digby Basin is attributable by the Overseer of that district—and I think there is no doubt of his correctness—mainly to the large quantities of saw-dust which are brought down into the waters of that Basin from the mills upon the Imbert (Bear River). In Annapolis Basin the herring have been very abundant, whilst in that of Digby, separated only by Goat Island, but quite out of the tideway to and from the River Imbert, that fishery has been an utter failure. Mr. Morehouse, the Overseer, has been making vigorous efforts, under difficulties, to remedy this evil state of affairs, but the laws' delays may lead to the irretrievable ruin of the Digby herring fisheries.

COUNTY OF ANNAPOLIS.

The returns from ANNAPOLIS show an improvement both in the coast fisheries and those of more inland sections. In Annapolis Basin, already mentioned, the catch of herring was greater than it has been for many years past. The Annapolis River is reported to me as having been to all appearance well stocked with salmon, bass and shad, although little effort was made by the inhabitants of the vicinity to capture them. Early in the season a dam on the upper part of the course of this river is believed to have been an obstacle to the passage of fish, but this difficulty has been removed, and I am assured that there are now good fish-ways wherever requisite throughout the country.

COUNTY OF KINGS.

KINGS COUNTY also shows a material improvement over last year. This is evident not only in the product of the fisheries, but both Overseers report a notably improved disposition on the part of those engaged in them to conform to the requirements of the law. The river produce of salmon here, as in most other parts of the Province, and indeed the shad fishery, show a falling off compared with former years, but on all other fish usually produced by this county, the yield has been good, whilst so great an abundance of gasperaux, in the river of that name, has not been known before for many years. It is the opinion of those residing in the vicinity, who have taken special pains to inform themselves in the matter, the Overseer of the district included, that few, or none of these fish have succeeded in passing what has been known as "Calder's Mills." Above that point the numerous obstructions which had previously been in the river were removed by the Overseer, Mr. Bishop, during the year, leaving a clear passage for the fish, thence to the lakes at the head of the river; but in the dam at the mills just mentioned, there was a fish-ladder. When I was at the spot about the end of September, this fish-ladder was five or six feet at either end above the level of the nearest water. It was quite practicable, by a slight extension of a wing-dam already existing to throw open one-third in width of the river channel itself. A gentleman who had just become principally interested in these mills expressed his willingness to do this, and I directed it to be done. When effected there will at last be an unobstructed passage for fish throughout the whole course of this important river.

COUNTY OF HANTS.

HANTS COUNTY shows an increased product from the fisheries of the Bay and the Shubenacadie River; but the reverse has been the case in the less considerable rivers of the western section of the county, owing probably in part to the unusual drought of the season. In two mill-dams upon the Meander and one upon the Hebert, I