

ed in the Harbor of Mingan, where we remained until the 2nd of October, being detained there by a storm of wind from the east-north-east.

I took on board the Fishery Overseer of this harbor, who told me that a salmon had been speared here by an Indian this summer, but that hunger had been the cause of the deed. I shall refer to this at greater length under the head of "spearing," in my general remarks attached to this Report.

On the 2nd of October I left Mingan, and on the same day I visited the establishments at Long Point, River St. John and Rambler's Cove. At these places both the summer and autumn cod fishing had been much better than at other places on this coast, and our fishermen appeared to be very well satisfied with the results of their labor.

The salmon fishing also had been good, and, altogether, it had been many years since there had been such good fishing in St. John's River.

At the last named post I met Mr. Beaubien, the Fishery Overseer, who told me that all was well in his division, with the exception of some trifling differences between the fishermen, which I settled amicably.

In obedience to orders from the Department, Mr. Beaubien had gone far up the St. John's River, accompanied by a miner, and had succeeded in blowing up a rock of several tons weight, which had until then presented an almost insurmountable obstacle to the ascent of salmon to the spawning beds of this beautiful river, and in the attempt to get over which, thousands of that fish had lost their lives; for when the water was low there was to be seen below the rock in question, a cavity several feet in diameter, and five or six feet deep, which was invisible when the water was high, and into which fell all the poor salmon that did not succeed in leaping the rock, and once in, they could not get out, and soon died, or became a prey to the bears who, when the water was low, ventured as far as this spot, called the *Chaudière*, and devoured all the fish to be found there.

On the occasion of his expedition to the *Chaudière*, Mr. Beaubien found from twenty-five to thirty dead salmon in it, and the remains of many more on the rocks around, whither they had been dragged by the bears. The effect of the blast has been such, that salmon will now be able to ascend it without danger, the whole of the side of the *Chaudière* having been blown away.

As Mr. Beaubien had finished his work at St. John's River, and the fishermen had almost all left the North Shore, he took passage on board of *La Canadienne*, and on the 3rd of October, in the afternoon, we anchored at Thunder River, which I visited, as well as Duck Creek.

Cod fishing was pretty good at these places.

We were prevented by fog from leaving this place until 4 P. M., and at 6 P. M. we arrived at Sheldrake Island, where just as I was going to land, the wind suddenly began to blow from the west with such force, and such a sea got up, that we were obliged immediately to take in sail and make for the South Shore. At 7 P. M. we left Sheldrake Island, and at 2.15 A. M. on the 4th, we were Fox River. That night was one of the roughest of the season, and we were obliged to pump all the time.

But for that storm I should have gone as far as Seven Islands, and visited the fishing stations between Sheldrake Island and that place.

On the 4th, in the afternoon, we anchored in Gaspé Basin, where there were only a few vessels.

I found nothing new at Gaspé. Some whalers had returned, and seemed well content with their voyages.

On the 7th, after having taken water and provisions, and had some repairs made to *La Canadienne*, we left Gaspé Basin for the Bay of Chaleurs. On that day I visited *Grande Grève*, Point Peter's and Percé, where we anchored in the afternoon.

At all these fishing stations the autumn cod fishing was very poor, not for want of those fish on the banks or even near the coasts, but because the fisherman could not go out, being prevented by the winds which prevailed continually this autumn on our coasts. But for that the fishing would have been very good, for on the few occasions when the boats were able to get to the banks they brought back from 12 to 15 draughts of cod.

On the 8th we left Percé, and that evening we anchored at Grand River, after having touched at Grand Cove, and on the 9th, in the morning, we were in Paspébiac