

Bertram left the ship on the 29th August, and we returned to our station between Canso and Halifax. On September 18th we returned to the Bay of Fundy for a short cruise, passing the steamship "Express" ashore at Shag Harbour on our way. We found fishery matters being prosecuted with unusual energy and the catches up to the average.

The location for the new life boat station at Grand Manan was selected by Capt. Douglas, R.N.R., on September 26th, who joined the "Curlew" at Eastport on that date. October 1st again found us steaming for the eastward of Halifax enforcing lobster regulations, and on the 11th and 12th of same month, in company with the other cruisers, at Georgetown, P.E.I., we participated in the Fisheries Protection Sports. Those sports were very highly enjoyed by the officers and crew of this ship, and are now always looked forward to with feelings of pleasure and expectation. There is no doubt that these sports are of immense benefit to the service.

The Challenge Cup which was held by a team from this ship for rifle shooting, at this competition was allowed to go to the "Kingfisher."

Steaming out of Georgetown on the night of the 15th, Pictou was visited for bunkering purposes, and steaming to Basque Island, three men were arrested for illegal lobster fishing, on warrants issued by Inspector Bertram. They were taken before this officer at Arichat, and in default of payment of fines were committed to prison.

After a run to Sydney we steamed to Halifax, arriving on the 25th October, Commissioner of Fisheries, Prof. Prince, and lobster commissioners Levatte, Whitman and Nickerson joined the ship there for the purpose of procuring information regarding the lobster fisheries at the principal ports in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. They took evidence at the various points, leaving the ship at North Sydney on November 5th. A final visit was then made by us to the harbours between Canso and Halifax, destroying some lobster pots in Halifax Harbour, and leaving the Gatling in the Marine and Fisheries store at Halifax. Cruising to the Bay of Fundy we arrived at Grand Manan on the 23rd and began the taking of bounty claims at the several fishing villages in Charlotte County. This, with other fisheries work kept us busy till December 9th, when we steamed to St. John placing ship out of commission and paying off crew that day.

Next day the engineers and firemen began some repairs to machinery, and are now employed at that work.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. PRATT,

*Commanding "Curlew."*

NORTH HEAD, GRAND MANAN, Dec. 30th, 1898.

Commander O. G. V. SPAIN, R.N.,

Commanding Fishery Protection Service of Canada.

SIR,—I beg to report as follows on the work done by the "Kingfisher" under my command during the season just closed.

In March I received orders from yourself to commission the "Kingfisher" on May 1st at Halifax. I arrived there on the 27th April to superintend some repairs, painting, &c. On May 2nd, the crew was signed in and the ship placed in commission, and on the 4th of that month I sailed for my station off Shelburne, and we cruised off Cape Sable until the 28th of May.

The first American seiner arrived on May 11th, after which the fishing fleet commenced to make their appearance from day to day. The fish not showing in any large quantities to the westward, the fleet then moved to the east, but with poor success. The foggy weather which has prevailed on the coast, more especially in the spring for the last two years has hampered the fishermen, making it almost impossible to locate the schools of mackerel.

I ran down in the fog to the eastward, not seeing anything until I reached Cape Canso, when the fog lifted and I saw a few seiners who had been down the Cape Breton coast,