

## THE WARDENS.

Since I have had the honor to act for the Department in this fishery division, it has been my aim to keep down the expenses of the service. The time has now come when an increased expenditure would be beneficial to the public interests. Such augmented expenditure need not be large.

The present uniform salary of the Fishery Wardens in Prince Edward Island, \$30 per annum, was probably founded on the £5 annual pay of the water bailiffs prior to Confederation. Taking into account the very economical scale on which local office was then held, that remuneration was, perhaps, enough for the services rendered. Things are, however, changed. The Wardens have now considerable work to do, and are expected to do it. Their respective duties are by no means uniform either in quantity or quality. Of the total number of forty Wardens, twenty look after the streams, and twenty have to do with the fisheries of the sea. In a few cases where the river Warden can supervise a limited stretch of stream by looking from his own door step, \$20 pay is enough. In other cases where, besides the streams, oyster beds in the estuaries have to be watched, \$30 or \$35 to \$40 might fairly be claimed. In yet other cases where the duties of the Warden lie along a coast with, during the season, a temporary fishing village, including one or more lobster factories, and, likely enough, a stream infested by sawdust running into the bay, \$50 per annum is not by any means too high a recompense for the attention required. However, self-sacrificing a Warden may be it is too much to expect him to give a large portion of his time for the remuneration he now receives. I would, therefore, suggest a gradation of the Wardens' salaries according to a record I have kept of the work performed by each during the past year.

The increase of lobster factories has upset all previous calculations. Where there were only thirty-two factories last year it is expected one hundred and five will be in operation next spring. It is obvious that a number of new Wardens will be wanted. Besides those specially required in the factory districts it is desirable that one be appointed for Brudenel and Cardigan Rivers, and one for Richmond Bay, both important points. And I would pray for, and lay great stress on the necessity of, the appointment of one Special Warden at the maximum scale of remuneration, for private service without any district assigned. This would make the fishery staff as nearly complete as may be.

It is due to the present Wardens to say that, with one or two exceptions, they have seemed desirous to work faithfully and zealously, and I have no complaint to make of the manner in which they have carried out instructions.

## CONCLUSION.

I have thus endeavored to lay before Your Honor the main features of the fisheries of this Province as they at present stand, and think there is nothing further to add, excepting that the visit of H.M.S. "Blanche" to the Gulf was received with acceptance, and made our loyal fishermen feel that they too are worth looking after as subjects of a great empire. Which leads me to say that, were the commander of the Canadian Fishery Cruiser directed to pay an annual visit to this island, it would strengthen the hands of the fishery officers, morally and actually.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. HUNTER-DUVAR,

*Inspector of Fisheries, P.E.I.*