

salaries to profound teachers who have a sturdy trust in their hands. Boys and girls at the age of twelve, are apt scholars, extremely inquisitive, and the information acquired by them at this age is productive of immense good. We believe before the expiration of five decades of time from the present, that the school system regarding Natural History will be as proficient as man can wish, and that towards the end of the century, many men will make grand progress in this noble science.

LEASING SALMON RIVERS—THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS.

"The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures."—JUNIUS.

One who glances over a Dominion map, scanning that portion of the coasts bordering both shores of the Lower St. Lawrence, will notice a number of rivers flowing into salt water. Several of these clear water streams are doubtless frequented by Salmon and Sea Trout. Gentlemen from Europe, the United States, and different portions of Canada have discovered the surface-fishing value of a few of these rivers, which are generally annually leased by the Fishery Department, that the lessees may derive the sole pleasure of fishing them. Of course, the Government claim the rivers, and have a right to demand a revenue from some of them, but we are informed that there is an exclusiveness in the system which the maritime people consider arbitrary. They say the man who is able to pay his dollar per day to fish with the rod for salmon should be allowed that privilege on any of the Nova Scotian and New Brunswick rivers. The Department sustains a staff of employes, as officers, inspectors, fish-breeders and guardians at good salaries, in order to look after all matters connected with these fisheries. This is a natural consequence arising from the leasing business, and may be well enough, provided it is made to pay. But the Government has a right to keep the people contented—to prevent the creation of ill-feeling—

to see that they are not debarred from a right which was not denied to them prior to Confederation. The men of New Brunswick are determined to claim riparian rights, and we are informed that dissatisfaction exists, especially in Campbelltown and neighborhood regarding these restrictions. Sportsmen and residents on the Matapedia, Restigouche and tributaries, feel greatly annoyed that the Department should sustain monopolies, in preventing them from procuring local life comforts which they formerly enjoyed. We think the proper mode of settling this difficulty is to do away with leasing and appoint a resident guardian for each river. When the season arrives let this responsible man be at his post to arrange with the surface fishers, keeping a memorandum of every day rods are used. Of course the daily score will guide him. In this way the Government would satisfy not only the resident sportsmen, but the many visitors who doubtless would go there as heretofore, to spend money and enjoy themselves. When a gentleman pays for outfit, railway fare, hotel bill, gaffer, and one dollar per day for his fishing, the amount at the end of the season will be quite sufficient for the pleasure derived. The locality will also be benefitted by this change, because gentlemen who can have a chance of fishing at this rate will probably remain at the river's side longer than they do at present. This system would ultimately do away with a portion of the Departmental work, as well as saving the country about \$40,000 per annum.

The following supplement to the report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for 1880 has just been issued. It shows that the total expenditure in the Dominion for salaries and fish breeding for the year amounted to \$86,162 and the collections to \$19,423. The number of fish licenses granted was 4,334. The number of fishery offices in the outside service was 594. The total expenditure for fish culture, was \$29,109, and the number of young fish distributed is stated to have been 21,520,600. In the Province of Ontario, the salaries paid and the expenses of fish breeding was \$17,304, and in Quebec Province, 9,173. The collections in