

parts of the coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were carefully made, with the latest appliances for that purpose. To these should be added a careful examination of the nature of the bottom, and in various localities, with special reference to the presence or absence of such microscopic vegetable and animal organisms as are known to form the bulk of the food of the oyster. Individuals or companies who might endeavor to make oyster beds artificially, would probably find these observations of value. Encouragement should be afforded to persons engaged in artificial oyster culture, or in making experiments with that end in view, by giving such legal protection to interests of this kind, as is done in Great Britain. It might be well to offer a reward for the best essay on artificial oyster culture in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, with special reference to the varieties best adapted for introduction into our waters. Attempts to acclimatize oysters in the seas of the Province of Quebec would, I think, be impracticable, unless (which is not likely to be the case) places should be found where the mean temperature of the bottom is exceptionally high. The northern limit of the oyster in Canada is the south side of the Bay of Chaleur, and in the north of New Brunswick oysters are usually of small size. The laws of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with reference to oysters are defective, and require reconsideration and amendment.

In 1869, Principal Dawson dredged wood perforated by a species of ship worm, (probably *Teredo dilatata*, Stimpson,) in Gaspé Bay, and in the same year I dredged a piece of waterlogged wood riddled by and full of a small burrowing crustacean of the genus *Limnoria*, in the same locality. When it is remembered that so many ships have been lost at sea, through the ravages of the ship worm that it has been designated by Linnæus the "calamitas navium," and when one reads of the damage done to dockyards in Europe and America, either by the *Limnoria* alone, or by it and the *Teredo*, it behoves us to be on our guard when we learn that these formidable creatures unfortunately inhabit our own shores. Principal Dawson informs me that great damages have already been done to the woodwork of wharves and harbours in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, by this species of *Teredo*. Mr. Nelson Davis, of Montreal, tells me that the brigantine "Magdala," which was built at St. John, N. B., was completely riddled by this ship worm, some time ago, on her first voyage, from St. John to Liverpool. He shewed me pieces of the timber of this unfortunate vessel, perforated in every direction with the burrows of this species, and containing the valves and pallets in situ. The whole of the ships bottom had to be renewed and covered with copper sheeting before she was again seaworthy.

If it is borne in mind that only five weeks were spent at sea altogether, and that during this time the ordinary duties upon which the schooners were engaged, often did not allow me to dredge, also that frequently, when opportunities were afforded, the weather was unfavorable, and that I was practically alone (so far as scientific help was concerned) nearly all the time; it is hoped that the results, both in a scientific and in a practical point of view, will be such as to be creditable alike to the Dominion Government and to the society which I have the honour of representing.

It may be mentioned that the cost of the outfit, and extra travelling expenses, amounted to about \$130, of which the Natural History Society of Montreal paid \$94 28, and myself the remainder.

My thanks are specially due, and are hereby gratefully acknowledged to Commander Lavoie, M.D., J.P., F. E. Gauthier Esq. B.A., Captain Leblanc and the officers of *La Canadienne*; also to Captain Lachance and the officers of the *Stella Maris*, for their unvarying kindness and valuable assistance to me while on board their vessels; to J. W. Gregory Esq., of Quebec, also to Mr. Joseph Eden, and other friends in Gaspé Basin, for much courtesy shown to me during a fortnight's stay at that picturesque little town.

MONTREAL, December 2th9, 1871.