

present system be continued the fishery must be destroyed and the manufacturers who have capital invested in the business will be compelled to remove to other places, and fishermen will thus be deprived of what is now a valuable source of income and means of support to them and their families, besides the loss to the Dominion of so large an article of export. Mr. Tory also recommends that lobsters of a smaller size than ten inches in length, instead of nine inches, as under the present regulations, be not allowed to be caught. There were no violations of law of any importance regarding the river fisheries, and from all the information that can be gathered, Mr. Tory believes that the fish frequenting the rivers under his charge are steadily increasing.

RICHMOND COUNTY.

Overseer E. H. Ballam reports that the coast fisheries of his division were successful this season; haddock and herring showing an increase over the catch of last year. Alewives and salmon remain about the same. Lobster fishing was very productive. The fall catch of mackerel has been a failure, owing to the boisterous weather in November, which resulted in a loss of nets, and prevented boats from attending to such nets as stood the weather, although the fish were plenty on the coast. As a whole, fishermen were successful, and good prices were obtained. A large quantity was sold for bait. No complaints were made relative to the river fisheries in Mr. Ballam's district this year.

D. Cameron, Overseer for the eastern division of this county, reports that while there has been a slight falling off in the catch of some kinds of fish there is a large increase in the aggregate over the yield of last year. The most notable increase was in cod and cod-oil; the increase in cod being two thousand quintals over that of last year, and the excess of oil about one thousand gallons. Fishermen consequently reaped a more plentiful harvest this year than last. The high prices obtained materially assisted in bringing about this desirable state of things. Mr. Cameron reports no violations of the law in his district.

CAPE BRETON COUNTY.

Mr. McDonald, one of the Overseers of this county, reports that the rivers are well stocked with fish on their way to their spawning grounds, easily passing the fishways. The catch of mackerel and herring was considerably below the average; these fish not appearing to near the shores as previously. Codfish yielded more than of late years, and the fishermen prosecuted their work in right down earnest. Lobster factories at Main-à-Dieu and Gabarus did not make a very profitable summer, owing partly to depression in that branch of business, and partly to the large catch of codfish, which yielded greater profits to fishermen. The factory at Louisburg was closed last fall, and continued so since. The people are beginning to understand the laws and regulations, and consequently pay them more respect.

Overseer Barrington reports a slight increase in cod and herring fishing of his district; while there has been about the same quantity of other fish taken as last year, although more vessels, boats and men were engaged in this occupation. Mr. Barrington complains that there are not so many herrings taken now as in former years, and ascribes as a cause to this falling off that, in former years, the nets were of so small a mesh that the fish dropped out and covered the spawning ground with dead herrings causing those which came for the purpose of spawning to proceed to cleaner and better grounds outside the district. Should this be the real cause, it has now been remedied by having the nets used all of a proper and uniform size; and it is to be hoped that this and other precautions which may be found conducive to the object will revive this important branch of industry. A good many vessels were fishing on the coast this season, but they did not catch anything. The fish were plenty but they would not bite. Mr. Barrington reports very favourably on the dispositions of the inhabitants to respect the law, and says he never has any trouble with fishermen and mill-owners. He has but to tell what is required according to law, and