

The short yield of cod may be accounted for as follows:—This fishing is pursued around the shores of Nova Scotia entirely in open boats which can only remain on the fishing grounds during comparatively smooth weather, and as winds this year were continuous and heavy during the fishing season, little was done in shore fishing.

I would also beg to call your attention to what Overseer Ross says with reference to trawl fishing. I have no personal knowledge of this mode of fishing, but wherever practised it is generally considered injurious to the fisheries for reasons stated by Mr. Ross.

For some unaccountable reason, not a single barrel of alewives was taken in the Margaree this year. This is extraordinary, as there are no obstructions on this stream to prevent fish from going up, and also because the river has always heretofore produced from two to four thousand barrels yearly. But notwithstanding this unusual state of affairs the yield of the Province is about equal to last year's. While Margaree at the extreme north has produced nothing, the Tusket at the extreme south shows the handsome yield of over 5,000 barrels (5,463 brls.), which is nearly double the quantity taken in 1874, and three times the amount taken in 1873; thus showing a steady and rapid increase as the result of the protection afforded since 1869 when the law was first put in on this river. It is probable that 10,000 barrels may be the yield next year, as its branches and lakes are of sufficient extent to produce these fish in almost unlimited quantities. Fifty and sixty years ago several large vessels were loaded there yearly, which formed quite an extensive business between Yarmouth and the West Indies. And notwithstanding the utterances of certain persons who have but a limited knowledge of the rivers of this Province, and granting that fish-ladders are not in such an efficient state as they ought to be in some counties, there is unquestionably a steady and healthy increase in the protection of all kinds of migratory fish, as shown by comparing the statistics for 1869, 1870 and 1871 with those of 1873, 1874 and 1875. The three former years produced in salmon, trout, alewives and shad a value of \$638,062, while the three latter gave \$860,306; showing an increase of 35 per cent. or \$222,244, notwithstanding the falling off during the year 1875 as compared with 1874, and the Margaree River yielding no alewives this year, while in 1870 the catch amounted to 6,570 barrels. Had this river produced its average yield, as no doubt it will next year; there would have been some \$14,000 to add to the increase of the past three years. Should these figures be correct, and I have every reason to believe they are so, they prove that the rivers of this Province are fast recovering from the wretched state your Department found them in seven years ago.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Overseer King reports that the western division of this county stands, with some exceptions, nearly the same as last year. Salmon were not so plentiful as last season, yet the quantity shows an excess over the average of former years. Shad also exhibit a falling off in the quantity taken, but the size of these valuable fish this year is so much larger than formerly, that the catch fully comes up to last year's. Other fish were about as plentiful as usual, and the same quantities taken, although fewer persons were engaged in fishing. It is a difficult thing to convince mill-owners to comply with the saw-dust and rubbish regulations; slabs, blocks, and edgings, as a general thing are, however, not allowed to go into streams to any great extent. Having made a personal inspection of all streams under his charge, Mr. King reports, that, in his opinion, saw-dust has no injurious effect upon the harbours. This is due to the extra rise and fall of tide, and consequent rapid flow of water, as well as to the rapid descent of streams above tide action. There are, however, deep places in these streams where the salmon rest in their ascent, and which are filling up with saw-dust. The principal rivers are provided with fish-ways by mill-owners; still there remains a good deal to be done.

Overseer Hingley, who was appointed to replace Mr. Patton, for the eastern division of this county, reports as follows:—"River Philip is a difficult stream to