

Marine and Fisheries.

prevalence of westerly winds, might not benefit by the change, but even they are of opinion that the close season should be during midsummer. I believe that lobsters are in primer condition towards the fall."

Appendix No. 3, Report of W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, p. 83.

"The present close season as set out in the new Order of Council of 17th December, 1887, will be very favourable to this fishery. The new regulation is a wise one, though I think the close season should end on the 31st October, thus giving three months, which appear ample." Annual Rept. Dept. of Fisheries, 1887.

Report of A. C. Bertram, Fishery Officer for Cape Breton, p. 97.

"There is a general impression that this fishery is being overdone to an extent that threatens its extinction at no distant date, and the depression in the present year's prices points in that direction. It may be said, however, that the greater quantity taken points to an opposite conclusion. But it should not be forgotten that lobster canning factories are multiplying year by year, as well as the number of boats and men engaged in the catching. Ibid.

"Whilst it is evident that some restriction of the business is necessary in the public interest, hardship to any class of persons would possibly be avoided by adopting the following:—

"1st. A standard regulation of minimum size, below which it would be unlawful to kill lobsters, say 11 inches, and a strict supervision over all boats arriving at the factories to see that this regulation is faithfully obeyed; no sale to take place until the lot has been inspected.

"2nd. No factory to be permitted to go in operation except under a license from the Department, and no license to issue to factories situated within a given coast mileage from any other factory already licensed, precedence to be governed by priority of application. Some such method of restriction would preserve the lobster fishery in perpetuity, and avoid giving colouring to complaints on the ground of personal interest to any party. The shortening of the open season would enable the Department to fix upon such dates for opening and closing in each year as would be adapted to all localities irrespective of differences in early or late spring seasons."

Appendix No. 4, Report of W. H. Venning, Inspector of Fisheries for New Brunswick, p. 143.

"The returns show a most alarming decrease. In fresh fish the falling off has been 1,252 tons. In canned fish 2,031,253 pounds, nearly half the catch of last year. This decrease is caused entirely by scarcity of fish, caused by over-fishing in the past." Ibid.

Appendix No. 6, Report of W. Wakeham, commander Fisheries steamer "La Canadienne," p. 187.

"It is absolutely necessary that steps be taken to curtail this over-fishing, and this can only be done either by closing down altogether for a term of years, or by shortening the fishing season and increasing the gauge which should be no less than 10 or 10½ inches. At Magdalen Islands and elsewhere, lagoon fishing should be prohibited, as there is no question that the shoal warm waters of these lagoons are the natural breeding grounds of the lobster." Ibid.

Appendix No. 2, Report of W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, p. 36.

"There is a small increase in the yield of this important item (lobsters), caused by limited time in which to take them, given by the law. They were very plentiful on most of the coasts and of a good size." Annual Rept. Dept. of Fisheries, 1888.