

shores arrest nearly every fish which attempts to make its way up stream. I would urge, as a very essential improvement in the regulations, that in this estuary no net be set "within *half a mile* of the head of the tide at low water."

More than half the deficit in the fishery returns of this county for the year as compared with last year, is represented by the falling off in the yield of the lobster fishery. On this subject I shall have to make a special reference further on in this report.

COUNTY OF QUEEN'S

In QUEEN'S COUNTY the fishery has not been a success this year; although the Overseer believes that there are good indications for the future, as large numbers of fish, both salmon and alewives, are known to have passed up the various streams to their spawning grounds during the earlier part of the season; whilst the young of the latter were seen in quantity coming down stream in the autumn months. Fishways generally in this county are in a satisfactory condition, except some of those upon the Mersey, which require improvement. Some refractoriness has been manifested in response to the demands to make such improvements. Many of the mill owners here, like a large proportion of those elsewhere in the Province, seem to think that when once a fish-ladder is put into a dam, *under the eye of a fishery officer*, he, the proprietor of the dam, may from that time forth wash his hands of responsibility in the matter, whether or not the fishway is ill-constructed, ill-placed, is obstructed, or gets out of repair. It is difficult to impress upon them sometimes that the builder or occupier of the dam or slide, is bound to keep "a durable and efficient fish-way" therein, and that he cannot shift to any other shoulders the responsibility of so doing.

COUNTY OF SHELBURNE.

In SHELBURNE there has been a falling off in some branches of the fishery Salmon have been scarce, and the herring fishery a failure, but there has been a large increase in haddocks, whilst the catch of cod and other deep-sea fish has been an average one. Generally the rivers of this country which have dams across them are well provided with fish-ways. The Clyde River is an exception. Here, where there is a large milling establishment having a dam right across the river, all the attempts at fish-ways heretofore made have proved failures. It would be quite practicable and at a moderate expense to direct an open channel around this dam. There are some natural difficulties in the way of otherwise keeping up a fish-way. There is need of an additional Warden in this district at Grand Lake on the Barrington River.

COUNTY OF YARMOUTH.

In YARMOUTH COUNTY I found a generally satisfactory state of affairs, so far as the obstructions to the migrations of fish are to be considered, except in the case of one dam across the Carleton branch of the Tusket River. Here there was a pretence of a fish-ladder, but it was a very inefficient one. I myself saw large numbers of alewives in the river at the foot of the ladder, but none passing through it. Any which made the attempt were dashed violently back owing to the high angle at which the ladder was placed and the great force of the current passing through it. This case was promptly dealt with by the Overseer who accompanied me during my visit to the spot.

It may be here remarked that the upper waters of the Tusket and its tributaries take their rise in the backwoods of Digby County. I am assured that several driving "dams" have been placed by lumbermen across these streams. These dams are quite too much out of the way to be looked after by the Overseers and Wardens of Digby County unless at a very heavy expense. I would therefore recommend that all these upper waters of the Tusket and its tributaries be placed under the jurisdiction of the Yarmouth fishery officers.