

“travention of law, and that offence was committed by a non-resident, whose name I
“could not learn.

“These cheering results have been obtained only by constant vigilance, and by the
“moral aid given by Mr. E. Gaskill and other gentlemen at North Head and Grand
“Harbor, assisted by frequent visits from Her Majesty’s Steamship *Britomart*, Comman-
“der Basil Cochrane. Neither the intense fogs of the Bay of Fundy, nor the intricate
“navigation prevented this vigilant Commander from cruising in the broken waters of my
“district, and frequently visiting the spawning grounds, and I am satisfied that to these
“frequent visits I am indebted for the preservation of my boat, and the personal safety
“of myself and men. Although lobster fishing has been successfully prosecuted in these
“waters for more than fifteen years, the grounds have never been overfished until the past
“year. As the demand for this shell-fish is fast increasing, and the fisheries in the
“neighboring States are becoming exhausted by overfishing, American manufacturers are
“constantly seeking new sources of supply, and during the past year the waters in my
“district have been fished to an excessive extent. During the months of August and
“September the lobster comes inshore to cast its shell, and is then not fit for food. Some
“regulations to prevent their being taken and to protect them during their spawning
“time, have now become absolutely necessary. Your mention of this matter in your last
“annual report meets with the approval of the majority of fishermen in my district, and
“I hope your recommendation will not be overlooked. The frequent scarcity during the
“spawning season of herring for bait in the Bay of Fundy, and the high prices then paid
“for them by Americans, are strong inducements for poaching on the spawning grounds.
“During the last two years treaty stipulations have been generally observed by American
“fishermen, and our own people have been deterred from violating the law; but when
“American vessels are admitted to our inshore fisheries, the small force at my command
“will, I fear, be inadequate to its protection; I would therefore suggest that measures be
“taken to provide additional assistance should such be needed, and to ensure the presence
“of an armed vessel in the neighborhood of the spawning ground during the whole of
“the close time.”

The following report, compiled from the returns received from the County Overseers
of Nova Scotia, has been furnished by W. H. Rogers, Esq., the Fishery Officer for that
Province.

The fisheries of this Province, as shown by the returns, have during the past year
amply rewarded those engaged in the business. The small falling off in the quantity
taken may be attributed chiefly to the facts that higher wages have ruled in this Province
for labor in all departments, and many of those who formerly followed fishing, have gone
into other occupations, and that last year afforded an extraordinary catch of mackerel. It
will be observed that the principal falling off is in this item. The sudden fall in the price
of fresh salmon which took place during the past season, caused by large importation by
rail of this fish from the Pacific Coast, discouraged our people from pursuing that fishery
as closely as they otherwise would have done; still the catch is considerably in excess of
last year, showing a gradual increase, year by year, which no doubt results from the pro-
tection afforded since Confederation took effect. It is very desirable that Overseers should
be better paid if it can be done. A little more money spent in this direction will have a
very beneficial effect on the fisheries, because, unless men are fairly paid, they will not
work, and the business under their charge must suffer.

Cumberland County.—James King, Esq., the Overseer for the Western district,
says:—“I having been in office but a short time and the fishing being principally over
“before my appointment, I am not in a position to say as much as if I had been in office
“during the whole of the fishing, I have spent considerable time and taken some pains to
“inform myself as to the state of the fisheries within the section under my supervision; I
“have personally examined every river in the district to which fish of any kind resort for
“spawning, and also the mill-dams, fishways and stations for shore fishing. I find that
“there are about seventy miles of sea-shore noted for cod, pollack, hake, halibut, salmon
“and herrings, and other parts of the district are frequented by shad and alewives. The