

## APPENDIX D.

### REPORT BY LIEUT. GORDON, R.N., ON WORK DONE IN THE FISHERIES PROTECTION STEAMER "ACADIA," IN THE FISHING SEASON OF 1887.

The Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER,  
Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

SIR,—I have the honor to report on the Fisheries Protection Service work done in the steam cruiser "Acadia," under my command during the season of 1887, as follows:—

In accordance with your instructions I left Toronto for Ottawa on 8th May, and having received your final directions, I proceeded to Halifax and took command of the steamer "Acadia," arriving there on the 12th of May. I found the engine room entirely in the hands of the machinists, who were executing a very thorough repair on both engines and boilers, and although latterly working night and day, it was not until the 11th of June that the ship was ready for sea.

Prior to the 11th of June but few United States fishing vessels had visited our coasts, the mackerel only striking in on the western Nova Scotian shore at the latter end of May, at which time there were in commission the sailing cruisers "Triumph," "Advance," "Howlett," and "Vigilant."

On the 11th of June, in accordance with directions from Captain Scott, R.N., I left Halifax for Pictou to fit out the cruiser "Critic," Captain McLaren. On the passage up numerous schools of mackerel were seen off the Nova Scotian coast, and several fishing vessels were passed whilst engaged in cleaning their fish at night.

The movements of the mackerel differed somewhat this year from what is reported to be their general route; for the fish striking in on the Nova Scotian coast in the latter part of May were subsequently met with from day to day further east and north, the fishermen reporting that the fish were very wild and "travelling so fast that it would take a steamship to keep up with them." Most of the fish are said to have passed round Cape North (C.B.), into the Gulf, and none were noticed passing through the Gut of Canso. After passing Cape North the fish seem to have made for the Bradelle and Orphan Banks, thence passing to Miramichi, and subsequently down on to the Prince Edward Island shore, where they remained, the bulk of the fish, close in to the shore during the months of July and August. The United States mackerel schooners always follow the fish, and a fleet of about sixty sail followed them this year along the Nova Scotia coast and into the Gulf early in the season; but it was not till the middle of July that the New England fleet appeared in the Gulf in force. At this time there were upwards of one hundred and fifty schooners from the United States in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The Protection Service fleet, at the same time and place, consisted of the steam cruiser "Acadia," the schooners "Annie C. Moore," Capt. Pouliot, stationed at Bay Chaleur; the "Howlett," Capt. Quigley, Miramichi Bay; the "Advance," Capt. Knowlton, Prince Edward Island; the "Triumph," Capt. Lorway, Prince Edward Island; the "Vigilant," Capt. McLean, Prince Edward Island; the "Critic," Capt. McLaren, Prince Edward Island.

It was my endeavor, as far as possible, to go round all the stations in the "Acadia" each week, and the synopsis appended hereto shows the distance run each week, also the coal consumed.