

in the Bill introduced by Mr. Irvine, the Member for Megantic, during last session, and which is still before the Lower House.

There can be no reason to doubt that if a clause be added to the Fisheries Bill to abolish the fixed Engines, that our Fisheries will yield not only a fair commercial value but also a large increase of wholesome food—while the population is augmenting, and while efforts are being made to increase it still more by emigration, no source for the supply of aliment should be overlooked, particularly one which if judiciously managed requires neither expense to maintain nor labor to improve its capabilities.

The RESTORATION of these Fisheries is a subject which concerns the public more than any individual. To the fisherman decrease of numbers may be compensated by increase of price; to the public it involves a decrease of food. The REFORM suggested in the modes of fishing may, for a short time, inconvenience a few, but these very persons will be the first to reap the benefit that will inevitably follow its adoption.

The decline of the Fisheries under the large and recent outlay of public money need not create discouragement, as these funds have been misapplied in giving effect to principles fundamentally erroneous, and not based upon that intimate knowledge of the natural history of the fish without which no system of protection can be of the least avail, and it would be unfair to expect Fishery Officers, who had no previous training or experience, taken from other branches of the public service, to be qualified for the efficient discharge of duties which in more advanced countries are generally entrusted to Naturalists and men of great experience, and it would be well to consider before another \$100,000 is cast into the St. Lawrence, whether it would not be prudent to adopt the same course as that pursued in England by the employment of an Officer possessing attainments qualifying him to direct this important branch of the public service, and if no one already possessing the necessary attainments can be found, to send on a visit to the principal Fisheries in Europe, some one who would in a few months acquire the requisite information. Under any circumstances it would be ruinous to persist in the continued employment on the shores and in the tributaries of the St. Lawrence of the fixed Engines which, when they do not wholly capture, the gravid fish scatter and drive them out of their course\* as well as fence them off natural breeding grounds; these Engines have also destroyed the fry of the larger kinds, and have so far diminished the sustenance of the Cod as in many instances to banish him from long-frequented haunts.

The course necessary to restore the Inshore Fisheries to their former productiveness has been plainly indicated, and has been tried and approved

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\* Russell, p. 362. Letter of R. A. O'Donnell to Mr. Lysaght, p. 8. Rep Com. House of Lords.