

fishery cannot be prosecuted from the shore. Ships are required, not boats. And it must not be forgotten that the Prince Edward Island fisheries, which produced, this year, over one and three-quarter millions of dollars, is a boat fishery only. The full expansion of the fisheries of this Province is an affair of the future.

FISHWAYS.

Six fishways are ordered, namely, one in Prince County, two in Queen's, and three in King's. Others will be suggested as circumstances may demand. Our rivers, having no background of hills, run but short courses, and are dependent for their floods solely on the rain fall of a local country nearly denuded of wood. Consequently the supply of power is so scant that few mills have any water to spare from their fall sawing at the time fish seek to ascend to the head waters to spawn. Add to this that most of the mills are of but limited value, and that the oldest of them, built in the time when there was no restriction as to site, are usually those that most destructively block the streams. A few hundred dollars would purchase almost any one of them. An expensive fishway would, therefore, be a grievous oppression to the owner of such an establishment, who runs, perhaps, no more than one or two up and down saws. The excellent but expensive ladders in use in the older Provinces, as well as in New England, Virginia and elsewhere, are totally inapplicable to the small streams we, by courtesy, call "rivers." Mr. W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, has been good enough to bring to my attention a fishway recently patented by him, in which the ladder-way is constructed in the body of the dam. Admitting the correctness of the theory of the Rogers ladder, its cost, in most cases, would bear a large proportion to the total value of the mill, and the water required would have the effect of crippling the business at the very season when the millers require to do the bulk of their work. Under these circumstances I have adopted, by permission of the Department, a fish-ladder of my own invention, specially designed for use on small streams, and which will economize the flow of water, and can be constructed at moderate cost, without the necessity of specially skilled labor. This ladder partly gets rid of eddies and embraces the principle of a succession of resting pools. Its practical working shall be duly reported to the Department.

Next to the persistent purchase by the public of oysters in the close season, the casting of sawdust and mill-rubbish into the streams is the most exasperating matter the fishery officers have to deal with. A good deal has been done this year in checking the practice, but much more remains to be done. Few of even the largest mills have a permanent staff attached to them, but are run by any casual labor that offers. Consequently there is a perpetual succession of irresponsible persons to deal with. Even when the owner of the establishment is willing to act in conformity with the law, his men find it easier to get rid of the rubbish by sending it down the stream than to obey his orders by wheeling it away. It is true the law makes the servants liable; but such persons have no means to pay a fine, and with the vision of a gaol before them would certainly disappear between the dates of summons and trial,—to be succeeded by others equally irresponsible. Many of the mill-owners have been communicated with, and a considerable number seem honestly endeavoring to meet the requirements of the law. In one case evidence was found against the proprietor, who was fined accordingly. To wipe out this most objectionable practice of defiling the streams will require perseverance, patience, and, above all, time. I have given attention to measures of repression rather than of punishment, as being the more effectual.

Much hostility is exhibited against the introduction of fishways, but it is hoped that when the millers see how little they really do lose by obeying the law they will make up their minds to submit to what is absolutely necessary in the present state of the streams, and when the public mind is somewhat quieted the right of highway to the fish seeking their spawning grounds will be generally recognized.