

protection to ensure the preservation and increase the propagation of this valuable fish.

That the different fishing grounds on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, and in the rivers occupied by those engaged in fishing at the time of the passing of the Act of last session, ought to be divided into fishing stations and properly marked off and defined so as to prevent too great competition and the encroachment of fishermen one on the other, care being taken to provide that when several occupants are included within one and the same limit, that they shall enter into arrangements so as to form one common fishery, or if they should prefer it that they may assign their individual rights to one person, upon payment by such person to the others, of a stipulated indemnification.

That the location of any river for fishing salmon on the St. Lawrence ought not to be proceeded with this year, but that a visit of inspection to the different grounds ought first to be made, so as to ascertain the number of actual and *bona fide* occupants within the meaning of the law, distinguishing the foreigners from our own countrymen, and to fix the different fishing stations to be established as such hereafter, to prepare a class of the said stations, and to make a report of the whole subject to the Government. And that Captain Fortin, the Commander of the *Canadienne*, with the assistance of Mr. Nettle, Inspector of Fisheries for Lower Canada, and some competent person acquainted with the practical business of the Fisheries, and well acquainted with the localities, should be directed to set off to the several fishing stations above mentioned.

That Her Majesty's subjects in this Province in the possession of fishing grounds at the time of the passing of the Act secondly above mentioned, in the places known by the name of King's Posts, on the said north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in the rivers, should be deemed as enjoying the benefits of the laws above cited, notwithstanding the pretended rights claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company, in virtue of its last lease, which lease does not confer on the said Company any exclusive rights of fishing in the said King's Posts.

That the period of three consecutive months, required as the condition for the right of obtaining the bounty granted to the owner of a vessel engaged in the seal fisheries, is calculated to prevent the result contemplated by the law, inasmuch as the time during which this fishing is carried on, does not exceed a month or five weeks, and that consequently it will be necessary to amend the last Act in this particular.

Your Committee further suggest to the Government, that they should abandon the River Betsimis to the exclusive use of Indians, together with the territory lying between that river and the River Aux Outardes.

Your Committee would also recommend, that the taking of the white fish with seines in Upper Canada should be prohibited during the months of June, July, and August, as during that period a large number of young fish are taken and left on the beaches; and that the 35th clause of the Act, in regard to Upper Canada, be repealed, as well as enforcing the 3 Will. 4, ch. 29, as assimilating with the law of the State of Michigan lately passed.

Your Committee think the obligation to build fish passes over all the dams in Upper Canada too indiscriminate, and that such a requirement should be left to the Superintendent of Fisheries, under authority from the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

A. M. McKELLAR,  
Chairman.