

set by miners, who were fined a small sum by the Stipendiary Magistrate, it being their first offence. There appears to be a general desire on the part of the inhabitants to respect the law.

Overseer John McDonald reports a further falling off of all kinds of fish, particularly salmon, in the eastern division of this country. Last year, the cause assigned for this decrease was the cold and backward spring and the strong south easterly winds which prevailed. The same cause is assigned this year, with this difference, that the winds were southerly and westerly and of greater force, thus preventing the fish from striking in-shore. At the spawning season, the rivers were in a more favourable condition than last year, the water being higher. Greater numbers of the fish undoubtedly ascended to the spawning beds. Early in the close season, as usual, some persons attempted to infringe the law, but sharp personal supervision stopped the practice, and salmon were left comparatively free to ascend the rivers. An early visit to the several rivers, and a warning to mill-owners, has had the beneficial effect of making these persons more careful in keeping sawdust and mill rubbish out of streams.

Overseer McDonald further says that the unfavourable state of matters referred to at the close of his last report, respecting parties netting salmon at offings or mouths of harbours and at the outlet of rivers while the fish are ascending to their spawning beds, has been happily obviated by the change in the law so admirably meeting the case. He had to enforce obedience to the new regulations in a few cases, when the parties pleaded ignorance of the change. Mr. McDonald hopes for favourable results from the change in the law in future seasons.

ANTIGONISH COUNTY.

From this county Overseer Alex. McDonald reports no material difference from last year, with the exception of salmon fishing, which has been very good. Salmon seem to be increasing in the waters of this county, and as they command a ready market, fishermen begin to devote their attention almost exclusively to these fish.

Mackerel were very abundant, and of good quality, but refused bait; consequently the number of barrels taken was small. No violations of the fishery law came under the notice of the Overseer. Returns from this county do not show the amount of fish caught in its waters, as vessels from other places fish near the shores and dispose of their cargoes elsewhere.

GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY.

Overseer James A. Tory reports very favourably from this county for the present year. There has been a large increase in his district over the past in almost every kind of fish, especially in codfish, mackerel and lobsters. Altogether it proved a prosperous season to most persons engaged in fishing. From the increase in lobster-canning establishments along the coast there is no doubt but this fishery will in a few years be materially injured and finally destroyed unless proper precautions be taken to protect it. The present year has given ample proof of over-fishing by the immense quantity sent to the markets, besides the destruction in catching so many small and soft-shell fish during the warm weather in summer. Mr. Tory is credibly informed that fully one-third of the lobsters caught between 1st August and 10th September die before reaching the canning establishment, owing to the effect of the atmosphere upon the soft shell which a large portion have at that period, thereby becoming useless for canning, and consequently have to be thrown away. The flesh at this season of the year is so light and shrunk that it takes three times the number of lobsters to make the same weight as in May and June. Mr. Tory in consideration of the above facts, and for the ultimate benefit of all parties interested, recommends that a restriction be placed upon the catching of lobsters during the above-named period, feeling sure that both packers and fishermen will benefit thereby. If the