

withstanding its ravages. An account of the work of the commission, by one of its members, is given in the first of the papers whose titles are below.

The animals work with extreme rapidity. In San Francisco Bay, they have destroyed great timbers within eighteen months, and even in certain cases within six months. It is recorded also that in Chesapeake Bay they have perforated small timbers completely in six weeks. Ships have been riddled on their first voyages. It is impossible to calculate the enormous damage annually done by this and allied species to naval works in different parts of the world.

In our own waters much damage has been done at Pictou and other places on the North Shore; piles of wharves and bottoms of ships alike suffer. Mr. Murphy, in his admirable paper quoted below, says that at Sidney Harbor, Cape Breton, "the *Teredo* is seemingly as destructive, if not more so, than at any point on our coast." Mr. Whiteaves, in one of his reports, tells us that "Ship-worms of large size are said to be found at Halifax."

On the southern coast, their work is likely to be confounded with that of *Limnoria lignorum*, referred to above. It was probably the work of both together that completely destroyed within a period of six years a large and strong tide-dam at Frye's Island, Charlotte County, but it is the *Limnoria*, as Prof. Verrill points out, that does the damage to weir-posts in that region. In St. John harbor they do no damage. Mr. S. W. Kain tells the writer that piers do not need protection from *Teredo*, though *Limnoria* is somewhat injurious. Pieces of timber which have been under water for many years show no trace of the presence of the former, and ships which enter the harbor infested by them, are free from them within two days. It is generally believed that this is caused by the great amount of fresh water in the harbor. Mr. Kain says: "There seems to be a consensus of opinion among all shipping men that the *Teredo* is not found in the Harbor of St. John, nor in any harbor where there is any considerable body of fresh water." The cause assigned no doubt explains the killing of those which are brought into and their absence from the