

state of things is attributed to the close season being well complied with and fixed at the proper time. There are at present twenty-four fish-ways in good condition within this division.

The salmon fry placed a few years ago in Trenton and Moira rivers by order of this Department begin to make their appearance in these streams and are looking remarkably well.

NORTHUMBERLAND DIVISION.

CHARLES GILCHRIST, *Overseer.*

The fishery laws were strictly enforced in this division last season. Having heard that inveterate poachers around Rice Lake were, as usual, making preparations for spring operations and boasted they would fish in spite of any one or anything, the local Fishery Overseer engaged assistants and divided that part of his division between them and himself. The result was that six boats or punts were seized, eleven spears and jacks confiscated, and six of the poachers heavily fined. A greater number would have met with punishment had they not blackened their faces and swam ashore when caught, in order to avoid detection and identification. These stringent measures effectually crushed illegal fishing. The Overseer is satisfied that there were not twenty fish killed with spear in these waters during last spring, and that next season, owing to the care bestowed on them this year and the beneficial effect of the heavy penalties imposed, he will be able to effectually guard Rice Lake with the assistance of a single guardian. Mr. Gilchrist also reports that he never saw the fish so plentiful on the spawning grounds as they were last spring.

Eighty-six permits to angle were granted during the season to residents, besides one hundred and four to gentlemen from the United States. Seventy Indians also availed themselves of a similar privilege.

ERIE, NIAGARA AND PART OF LAKE ONTARIO DIVISIONS.

J. W. KERR,
JNO. J. WILCOX. } *Overseers.*

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the yield and value of the fisheries in this division :—

	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
Whitefish, brls.....	615	498	482	623
do lbs.....		93,958	96,500	
do per 100.....		466		
Trout, brls.....	166	55	99	43
Herring, brls.....	512	405	405	268
Sciscos, brls.....	219	288	134	188
Maskinonge, brls.....	8	12	42	77
Pike and Bass, brls.....	280	488	620	251
Pickereel, brls.....	261	444	723	156
Coarse fish.....	653	780	798	236
Total.....	2,714	3,436	3,303	1,842
Value.....	\$16,601	\$25,899	\$24,783	\$13,542

The catch of the present season shows a large falling off from that of last year owing to the fact that the number of fishermen and material employed were smaller