

I would also bring to your notice, that during the past season several disputes have arisen respecting salmon berths upon the sea coast. A number of inhabitants who are the owners of the land where those berths are located, and who have fished them for the past thirty years, have been deprived of them by other parties taking possession of them in the early part of the season, which would have led to considerable litigation and expense, only that I advised them to let the matter rest for this season, and to make an early application to the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for a lease, to which they consented, and I have no doubt they will avail themselves of this remedy. If so I hope leases will be granted for a small sum. This will finally lead to applications for leases of all salmon fishing berths, and thereby make them a source of revenue."

*Richmond County.*—John H. Ballam, Esq., says:—"I have much pleasure in stating a considerable increase in the quantity of fish taken over that of last year, except herring and mackerel, which fisheries proved a failure in the spring, owing to its being so cold and late, while the extremely low price of these fish deterred many of the fishermen from pursuing them as energetically as heretofore. The decrease in mackerel from last year was 1,572 barrels, herring, 3,065. The increase in codfish 2,985 quintals, haddock 9,000 quintals, alewives 515 barrels, eels 70 barrels; the increase in oil was 8,081 gallons. Thus plainly shewing, as will be seen by the increase of alewives, that the system of protection for the river fisheries is working well. The salmon fishery with nets is not much attended to in my district. It was formerly carried on with torch and spear in the rivers, but this year I have no violations of the law to report, and a greater number of salmon has been seen ascending the Black River and River Inhabitants than for a number of years past. Trout and alewives have ascended the River Moulin very plentifully the present year. I have again to recommend most earnestly the appointment of suitable persons to act as wardens for Black River and River Moulin; and I have no hesitation in saying that their appointment would amply repay the expense in plentifully restocking both these rivers with fish. A factory for putting up canned lobsters was opened here last spring by an American gentleman, Mr. Lewis, but before everything was in working order it was late in the season, still he succeeded in putting up 12,000 dozen. It is his intention to commence early next spring, and go more extensively into the business. It has been a boon to the place, having given employment to quite a number of men and women."

D. Cameron, Esq., the Overseer for the Northern district of this County, reports as follows:—"The enactments so wisely and judiciously framed for the protection of the fisheries are beginning to be strictly observed in this, and I believe many other districts, and it is with much pleasure and satisfaction that I am enabled to state that I have not been obliged to make a seizure or impose a fine, during the whole of this season. The wardens in their respective stations are strict and faithful in the discharge of the duties incumbent on them; and this, together with my own attention to the duties of Fishery Overseer, keeps protection in good working order, so that few attempts are made to violate the laws. The streams throughout this district appear to be unmolested, and no obstructions to my knowledge are thrown in the way of the finny tribe. I regret to say however that there is a large deficit in the quantity of fish caught when compared with that of last year; I will assign two or three reasons for this; In the first place we had a very late spring, and from the inclemency of the weather and lateness of the season, the deep sea fishing vessels, on their first trips, were obliged to return with very small fares, some with only a few quintals, after five or six weeks absence. Our shore fishermen were likewise as unfortunate in spring; but the following part of the season proved more favorable to both classes. Then the unusually low prices offered by mercantile men for pickled fish, such as herrings and mackerel, gave no encouragement to our shore fishermen, consequently quite a number of these men left our shores, seeking other avocations. My returns show a decrease of 95 in the number of men employed. These reasons will account, to a great extent, for the large falling off from the returns of last year."

*Cape Breton County.*—Francis Quinan, Esq., says:—"In Cape Breton, 1872 will be long remembered for the severity of its winter; the drift ice appeared along our coast in greater bodies, and remained longer around our shores, than during any previous season