

Denis stream they were so numerous that the people of the surrounding county had all they wanted for home consumption, and many persons peddled them around the towns. This stream is now well supplied in its whole length, and I allowed fishing on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week, which gave general satisfaction. There is no doubt that if mill-rubbish could be kept out of the main river, it would also be re-stocked."

Overseer Cunningham of the Inner Bay district gives a favourable account of the fisheries under his charge. He reports that in addition to great abundance of summer and winter herring, mackerel made their appearance in the bay in August, for the first time in many years. Unfortunately the fishermen were not prepared for these unusual visitors, and but a small quantity were taken.

Overseer Lord, of West Isles district, reports a fair average catch of cod, but a decrease in that of hake and pollock. The summer and winter herring fishery has been exceedingly good and rather above an average. Overseer Brown, of Campo Bello, reports favourably of the herring and hake fishing in his district, which exceeded that of last year.

Overseer McLaughlin of Grand Manan reports a large increase in the catch of herrings for smoking, the quality of which was superior to those of last year. Herrings for pickling were not so plentiful, owing, he thinks, to the coldness of the water, which kept them off shore. The returns show an increase in the catch of cod, but a decrease in that of pollock. The falling off in the catch of lobsters is the natural consequence of the want of sufficient protection for this shell-fish, and I have no doubt that the same result will soon be visible in all localities where this fishery is prosecuted, unless a larger measure of protection is afforded. In reference to this matter Overseer McLaughlin makes the following remarks with which I entirely agree:—"In addition to a close time from July till the following March, lobster traps should be made so that all under nine inches in length can escape from them, and traps to be set until inspected and marked by the local Overseer. This would prevent, in a great measure, the violation of the regulation respecting small lobsters, which I have reason to believe is evaded to the great injury of this valuable fishery." Mackerel made their appearance in the waters of Grand Manan this season, and several hundred barrels were caught in herring weirs. Overseer McLaughlin urges the appointment of a Warden at White Head Island, and another at North Head to prevent the deposition of "gurry" on the herring grounds. His own presence is required at the spawning grounds at Southern Head, and he cannot personally attend to this duty. I would respectfully recommend that the salary paid to the late Overseer, Lorenzo Drake, (who performed this duty) be divided between two Wardens in these localities, whose duty it shall be to see that the law respecting "gurry" is strictly enforced, as nothing is more destructive to the herring fishery than the pollution of the waters to which they resort.

Since the Fisheries Act of 1868 has been in force, vigorous efforts have been made to carry out its provisions respecting the pollution of streams by saw-dust and mill rubbish. These efforts have been met by determined opposition of influential mill-owners, and it has, in many cases, been found impossible, owing to circumstances unconnected with the law, to compel compliance with its requirements. The matter is one of vital importance to the fisheries and the navigation of all our large rivers, and I respectfully ask for the following remarks your favourable consideration.

There can be no doubt that the operations of saw-mills at a time when there was no law compelling the erection of fish-ways or prohibiting mill refuse from being thrown into the streams, have caused many of our rivers that once abounded with migratory fish, to become entirely deserted by them. In fact this is the case with by far the greatest number of our smaller rivers and streams at the present time, and the same causes are operating to depopulate our larger and more important rivers. These milling operations are now threatening to undo all that has been done to restock the River St. Croix. After fish-ways have been built in all the dams, and salmon and