

sardine factories, and for which a good price could be had. While there is a ready market for these fish, any mode of fishing which necessarily destroys them should be prohibited. The great increase of weirs in Mr. Cunningham's district has added largely to his duties, and his present salary is not adequate compensation for his services. As he is an old and faithful officer, I ask for his case your favorable consideration.

OVERSEER BEST, of Beaver Harbor district, reports about an average catch of line fish, and a considerable increase in the yield of the herring fishery. He reports no violations of the law.

OVERSEER LORD, of Deer Island and La Tête district, reports as follows:—"The results of this year's work are satisfactory, especially in a financial point of view. Although there has been a falling off in the catch of some kinds of fish, it has been more than counterbalanced by increased yield from other kinds. The catch of line fish was small compared with former years; but this has arisen from the fact that many of our fishermen, who formerly followed this branch of the business, have left it to engage in weir fishing. The quantity of smoked herrings is larger than usual, and shows a considerable increase over last year. The weirs, and the number of men engaged in fishing them, have greatly increased. At the close of 1878 there were only thirty weirs in this district, while now there are nearly one hundred under license. This great increase has been caused by the demand for small herrings, which are put up as sardines in the factories at Eastport, of which there are ten now in operation, and several more in course of erection. As you will see by my returns, there have been taken and sold in this district 5,000 hdds., at an average price of \$5 per hhd., which has had the effect of putting \$25,000 in circulation among our people. If the Canadian market could be secured to us, factories would be started in this county, employment would be given to a large number of our population, and we would soon be a prosperous community. The winter herring fishery has opened well and as fish are plentiful, a good winter's catch is anticipated."

From the above it will be seen that the duties of Overseer Lord have increased to such an extent that they necessarily occupy the greater part of his time and attention. He is an active and painstaking officer, attentive to his duties, and methodical and correct in his returns and remittances. His present salary bears no proportion to his services, and is quite inadequate to compensate him for the duties he performs so well. I respectfully ask for this useful officer your most favourable consideration.

OVERSEER BROWN, of Campobello, reports a decrease in all kinds of line fish, but an improvement in weir fishing.

OVERSEER McLAUGHLIN, of Grand Manan, reports as follows: "Since my last annual report the various fisheries of this district have been vigorously prosecuted with about the same results as last year, except in the weir and lobster fisheries, in both of which branches there has been a great falling off. The herring weirs about North Head, Long Island, Farmer Rock, Bancroft's Point, Woodward's Cove and the Duck Islands have had a good run of fish, which, compared with former years, yielded over an average both in quantity and quality. But the weirs in Cow Passage, Cheney's Passage, Whitehead Island, and other places in the southern part of the district have been almost a total failure up to the first of the present month (December). This unfortunate failure is due to the tides, which have not been sufficiently high on the bars and flats. The catch of lobsters, compared with former years, is very small. There are no sardine establishments in Grand Manan; Eastport having, so far, a monopoly of this lucrative business. There is no danger of a depletion of the herring fishery from the sardine business, so long as the spawning grounds are protected, and I am well satisfied that no action should be taken to interfere with this industry. If anything could be done to secure the Canadian market for our own product, a profitable business could be built up in this county, and employment given to a large number of our people. All the herrings suitable for sardines are caught in our waters, but the United States duty on fish, preserved in oil, operates as a bar to our prosecution of the business for export. The catch of line fish is about equal to that of last