

"loss of momentary inconvenience to persons affected by them, and prejudice immediate gain. But the choice of protective means really lies between such necessary and practical protection as can be attained consistently with the existence of this industry on a reasonably remunerative footing. The permanence of the resource demands paramount consideration. If therefore the existing regulation inevitably causes some degree of inconvenience, it is very probable that any truly effective substitute will prove even more obnoxious to those who are in fact interested in pursuing the business unrestrictedly as to time, place, means and consequences."

The fears expressed two years ago have last year been severely confirmed. A falling off in the value of the lobster catch amounting to \$545,950 in a single year is sufficiently alarming to arrest attention. There seems to be no other remedy but an absolute prohibition during the principal part of the spawning season.

FRESH FISH TRADE.

Besides the improved modes of preserving fish in a fresh state, instead of pickling them, which have latterly increased so greatly the traffic in fresh fish, the railway communications between fishing districts are fast opening up markets for the large quantities of winter caught fish produced in the northern and eastern parts of New Brunswick. Whenever the Intercolonial Railway is completed, we may expect to be supplied throughout the central and western sections of Canada with fresh fish in great abundance from tidal waters during the entire season.

REDUCING SALMON STANDS.

A diagram accompanying Commander Lavoie's report shows the number of salmon stands fished in Gaspé Basin and estuaries. These stands are so numerous and are placed in such situations as to obstruct the passage of salmon into the rivers. The natural consequence has been a failure of the fishery. If these stands were thinned out, it would no doubt cause some temporary discontent; but ultimately the whole neighbourhood would be benefited. The fairest way to reduce them would probably be by associating together the owners of different stands and granting joint licenses for a reduced number of places. This plan would save the fishermen the greater expense of each man fishing a separate station; and the cost being divided amongst several would result in the fishery being worked more profitably.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

The decennial census enables us to test the accuracy of the annual returns produced through the Fishery Officers of the entire produce of the fisheries. But it would be much better if some machinery existed by which, in conjunction with the statements of fish exports entered in the Trade Returns, the Government could yearly ascertain with commercial accuracy the quantities and values of fish entering into domestic consumption and foreign trade. The bill providing for an official inspection of fish, which was originally framed by the undersigned, had for one of its leading objects an exact account of the fish caught or disposed of in each inspection district. This feature of the measure was intended to be carried out through the instrumentality of