

swarming to get up, there was no time to communicate with the proper authorities. Mr. Anderson, therefore, pledged himself to obtain from the Government one-half the amount of cost of construction; and, failing in this, he will, to a certain extent, be liable. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Simonson, the Company's Agent, Luson Bayer, of Musquodoboit, an experienced mechanic, was engaged to do the work, and had to visit the place twice before it could be commenced; hence the charge.

On the 12th July complaint was made of a dam with an insufficient fish-way, ten miles up the Tangier; a distance of thirty-eight miles. Complaints also having been made of poaching and obstructions on the *Ecum Secum* river, at the extreme east end of this division, another visit had to be made to that locality. A change of Wardens at Mosher's river, and to include this stream in his district would remedy some of the troubles. Mr. Anderson having visited the locality in question found matters all wrong and the place isolated; the parties were poor and pleaded ignorance of the law. Having done the best he could, he returned. These matters will be remedied next year. Mr. Anderson further reports: "By special directions of the Commissioner of Fisheries, I joined Mr. Rogers in Halifax, and with him visited every river in my district. My sixth and last trip was commenced on the 3rd December, but the fishermen being chiefly in Halifax with their fish, I had to return for a few days. Since then I have been solely engaged taking an account of the fish, &c. I regret to say there is more poaching on the Musquodoboit than on all the other rivers in my district. This river is in every way adapted for spearing, being thickly settled to the head waters. I have recommended two additional Wardens for this stream. It is sad to notice the wholesale slaughter of salmon on this river when these fish are altogether unfit for use. I proposed dispensing with a Warden at the Harbour, but find when my presence is not required here I am called away to some other place, and without efficient Wardens it is impossible to carry out the law. I have the good-will and assistance of the well-thinking portion of the community, and have endeavoured to make everyone understand that the law is a benefit, not to be dreaded. Last year I refrained from giving an opinion on lobster fishing; this season I have given it my special attention. I considered it necessary that there be a special Act prohibiting the throwing of offals of lobster factories into the water, as it is positively detrimental both to the salmon and herring fishing, neither frequenting polluted waters. Complaints were made to me that the traps, trawls and boats engaged in catching lobsters are injurious to the coast fishing, particularly that of salmon. For the protection of lobsters I would recommend that no lobsters be caught after the 31st July. To carry out the present law is next to impossible, unless there be a Warden for each factory. In most of the districts during fall fishing most of the lobsters are under size. I am happy to state that during my experience of over forty years I have never seen fishermen more thoroughly contented and apparently better provided for winter. There has been a failure in net fishing, but line fishing was better and the high prices secured gave the true reward to the industrious."

Overseer Fitzgerald reports a falling off of one-third on last year's catch in the eastern district. Codfishing was good, but the mackerel and herring were less and the salmon were scarce. Spring being stormy, fishermen could not keep their nets in good order. In Margaret's Bay, one of the finest fishing grounds in the Province, the fishery was almost a total failure. In former years there was always a large number of salmon, mackerel and herring taken, but at present they seem to have left the Bay.

#### PICTOU COUNTY.

Overseer Graham, reports fishing in the rivers and along the coast of his district to have been a failure this year. The fish-ladders on nearly all of the streams were more or less damaged by the ice; some being carried away entirely. Most of them were repaired. There were no violations of the fishery regulations reported, except on East River, where three nets and one canoe were confiscated. These nets were