

INLAND FISHERIES,

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

As a considerable amount of uncertainty respecting the law bearing upon inland fisheries and fishing rights in the Province of Quebec is known to exist even among those who are interested in such matters, the following pages have been compiled with a view to the promotion of a better knowledge of the subject.

With regard to certain erroneous ideas entertained by many parties, viz. :—

That the Inland Fisheries were transferred from the Federal Government to the Provincial Governments and private owners of lands by a law passed for the purpose ;

That the control and regulation of all matters relating to Inland Fisheries are now vested in the Provincial Governments ;

That owners of fishing rights pertaining to private lands may now take fish in their own waters in any way they please ;

It should be understood that it was no new law, but a judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada, based upon the old or common law and a correct interpretation of the Confederation Act, which established the fact that the right of fishing in inland, non-navigable waters belongs to the owners of the lands bordering on such waters.

But the same judgment sets forth that the Confederation Act gave the Dominion Parliament power to pass laws for the regulation and protection of inland as well as other fisheries, and prescribing