

catch was good, particularly about October 17th when fishermen were making good catches of herring of good quality in Long Pond Bay. This fishery, of which the smoked branch is the most important, shows a decrease in comparison with last year, there having been only 800,000 boxes of fish of very small size, commonly called "mediums" put up. Large herring for smoking purposes are reported to have been a total failure and it is thought to be caused by the taking of so many small fish for sardine factories. Of this class there have been taken and shipped to the United States 7,500 barrels. This is, comparatively speaking, a new branch in the fishing industry as far as Grand Manan is concerned. Pickled herring show an increase over 1897, there having been 5,000 half barrels taken, but the fish are reported to have run quite small.

It appears to be the general opinion in this district that unless some measure is adopted to prevent the wholesale slaughter of small herring that this industry will soon be a thing of the past.

*Lobsters*.—The first report received on May 11th indicated that this fishery was fair, and although somewhat scarcer during the remainder of the season it was reported that the factory at Grand Harbour was boiling five tons every other day.

The total quantity taken from April 16th until June 4th is estimated at 171,391 pounds, or an average of about 21,424 pounds per week. Of the season's catch 848 cases have been canned and 112 tons or 224,000 pounds of live lobsters exported to the United States. It is a noticeable fact that this branch is falling off each year and it is thought to be due to the over fishing of small lobsters.

*Pollock*, although not reported, show a large increase, there having been 3,500 quintals taken.

#### QUEBEC.

##### GASPE.

*Codfish*, although reported in considerable quantities on the coast on May 24th, no catches were made until the 28th, after which they were poor. It is contended that the scarcity of bait throughout the months of June and July was a great injury to the fishermen, and that the season's catch will scarcely be an average one.

*Herring* were first reported on May 11th in fair quantities, but afterwards were scarce. The fall catch, however, is reported to have been a fair one.

*Mackerel* are again reported to have failed to reach these shores the past season.

*Salmon* were first taken by net on May 11th, and the catches throughout the season varied from fair to poor.

##### GRAND RIVER.

*Caplin* appeared only one day in the first week of July. The catch was slightly pickled and dried for local use.

*Codfish* were first reported on May 23rd, and the catches (inshore) were fairly good until the last of June. After that it was very poor. The bank fishery was a partial failure in June, July and August and very little was done. Fair fishing, however, was reported during the early part of September, but rough weather setting in ended the season's work. Dogfish were again troublesome this season, particularly in August. Total catch estimated about 3,000 drafts short of last year's.

*Herring* struck in fair quantities on May 2nd, and the average catch throughout the season was fair. In the third week of July good quantities were met with on the banks, but as the weather was bad very few were taken. Fish were of small size the whole season.

*Lobsters* appeared early in April and lasted until about the 14th June in fair quantities when high winds interfered. There is one factory located here and the other at Little River—two miles distant—and they report lobsters to have been of small size the whole season.