

- No. 2. *Black Rock Berth.*—From Ball Rock to Black Rock.
 No. 3. *Salmon Cove Berth.*—From Black Rock to and including Salmon Cove.
 No. 4. *Point Berth.*—From Salmon Cove to Peggy's Point.
 No. 5. *Pollock's Cove Berth.*—From Shark Rock to Pollock's Cove.
 No. 6. *Passage Berth.*—From Shark Rock to Pollock's Cove Rock.
 No. 7. *Swab Rock Berth.*—From Pollock's Cove Rock to Swab Rock.
 No. 8. *Round Rock Berth.*—From Swab Rock berth to Round Rock.
 No. 9. *Simond's Rock Berth.*—From Round Rock to Simond's Rock.
 No. 10. *Clam Pond Berth.*—From Simond's Rock to Clam Pond.
 No. 11. *Gap Berth.*—From Clam Point to Gap Point.
 No. 12. *Five Alley Berth.*—From Gap Point to Five Alley Rock.
 The Committee advise that a Commission do issue accordingly.

JOHN J. MCGEE,

Clerk of the Privy Council.

THE LOBSTER FISHERY.

The enormous increase in the annual catch of this important industry more than ever convinces this Department that unless stringent measures are adopted to ensure its protection it will be unable to bear the heavy drain put upon it.

Ten years ago, two or three lobsters were sufficient to fill a one pound can ; now, it takes six or seven, or more. The number of factories has kept pace with the increase in the number of men, boats and traps used, while the number and size of the lobsters has correspondingly diminished. There may be some fluctuation in the supply of certain localities from time to time, and a year of scarcity may be followed by one of comparative abundance ; but the fact, nevertheless, remains, that the industry is too much taxed for its productive power and that it cannot very long stand this heavy drain.

The Canadian lobster is of great value to the country. The total number of these shell-fish preserved in cans or sold alive during the season of 1890 amounted to 11,566,732 pounds in weight, representing a value of \$1,648,344, and giving employment to thousands of persons during two months and a-half of the year. The estimated value of lobster factories and lobster traps is computed at \$822,903.

While the number of factories is yearly increasing the size of the lobsters has been correspondingly decreasing, and unless a check be provided, a valuable industry which, if intelligently nursed and efficiently protected, might be made to yield profitable returns for future generations, will be lost to Canada. Experience has proved that, unless protected by stringent regulations, lobsters could easily be exterminated. By over-fishing or by taking immature fish that have never spawned, any given locality can be speedily depleted and ruined as a lobster ground.

There may be room for diversity of views as to the present condition and prospects of the great sea-fisheries ; but in regard to the valuable lobster fishery, which occupies such a high place in the piscine wealth of the Maritime Provinces, there can be no doubt that this fishery is at present overdone, and, as a result, gradually but surely diminishing.

The annual reports of the Inspectors of Fisheries of England and Scotland show that while in some localities of Great Britain the decrease has been great enough to change the standing of this fishery, and render its pursuit unprofitable to the fishermen, the price of lobsters exported from Norway has more than doubled since 1866 ; thus showing how much the drain is being felt, although the lobster fishing grounds of Norway are known to be the largest and best in Europe.