

ducts of Restigouche and Gloucester Counties are valued at \$792,628
 " Bonaventure and Port of Gaspé " " " 509,000
 to which may be added expenses of 200 anglers 50,000

A total of \$1,441,628
 nearly equalling British Columbia and Quebec, above Ontario, and
 more than P. E. I. and Manitoba, putting both together.

The salaries and disbursements paid to the officers for protection in those four counties (not including Dr. Wakeham's) total \$3,723. For the same service in the County of Northumberland its officers draw \$3,811, whilst its fishery products are only valued at \$287,500. I beg to draw the attention of the Department to this fact, as I know many of the officers of the Department in the Bay of Chaleur are not paid in comparison with their limits and for the work they are expected to perform, and I may here tell the public from statistics in my possession, that the cost of guardianship on the salmon rivers emptying into Chaleur Bay, paid by private parties, amounted to \$11,500, of which amount \$7,000 was paid on the Restigouche river alone, and which is of as much benefit or more to the netter, as it is to the angler. Such is the present position of the Bay of Chaleur, salmon net fisheries, still the salmon only yielding 90 or \$100,000 of the whole, the great cod fishery being the main factor, supplemented by the lobster, now in its wane, but quite possible to be resuscitated. Let us look at the salmon fisheries in the past and so often referred to. From 1837 to 1856 the great proportion of salmon taken were by nets in the estuary, and the spear of the Indian, supplemented with a few from the whites taken with the drift net. Some half doz. of the older residents held the best fishings in the estuary, a few nets were set at Dalhousie and Charlo, at Salmon Beach, Bathurst, and in Gaspé Basin. Between those years there were not over 50 netting stations in the Bay, the fish were barrelled salted, commonly sold to Halifax and American traders in exchange for goods, commonly at \$8.00 per bbl. When I tell you that we often had years when up river settlers with a drift net could not catch sufficient fish for their winter, some idea can be formed as to the quantity caught. Often a good station in the estuary would not catch over 10 or 12 bbls., and 20 bbls. was considered a good catch. The Indians, assisted by the settlers on the river as well as by parties from the St. John, followed the fish as far as they could go and the only thing that prevented total extinction of the salmon, was a few fall fish running late and also a distaste both Indians and whites had to eat a spawning fish. Never in our best seasons could 1000 bbls. have been exported from the Bay of Chaleur, one fifth of what it is to-day. The commencement of canning in 1860 did not tend to improve matters as sometimes it raised the price. Any regulations made were by the sessions, a body of magistrates interested in the fisheries, and one of the netters, the overseer. In those times, when

netting was the nets, the amongst the cient to keep some of their took place. spearing. in tide way presence of a synopsis of 1837 I believe settlers get the seine. few settlers settle. On ed nearly al the order of now there a months of have found Canada was loth last n tell you quit northern b added their the Fraser the salmon practical fis 12 years, an uniform, an nets, a good what was e force, no do seen fifty n sion refused sume, in ev stations, tl croachment ment to gra their heirs claim "why crown is o cannot be a and tidal w tide ebbs at Certainly public and