

Applications have been received from several quarters praying that salmon fry may be put into the streams of the localities.

RESERVED AND OTHER RIVERS.

There is nothing special to report in regard to the reserved rivers Morell, Midgell and Winter. The Wardens who were appointed in spring have settled to their work and keep a fair supervision over the streams. There seems to have been a marked diminution of poaching although it cannot be said to be quite extinguished. Warden Dingwell, at the mouth of the Morell, says he is "keeping a close watch on the river, but as far as can be discovered the salmon are not molested." The other Wardens Duffy, McCullough, O'Brien and Mitchell, on the Morell and Midgell, make similar statements. Warden German, Winter River, writes that, "Salmon are now in the bay waiting for a freshet; they mostly come up about the first week in November. A few clean fish were in the river in summer, as well as large numbers of fry. There has been no case of poaching since the prosecution of James Clow." The Wardens of the reserved rivers are much in want of boats; also, considering the small sum it would cost, they should be authorized to remove the old net and timber stakes that baffle everywhere in the streams.

The Marie River, King's County, is a fine stream with a course of but a few miles, and suitable for the reception of salmon fry. Lying midway between the Morell (query *morelle*, nightshade?) and the Midgell, about a mile and a half from each, persons going to fish in the Marie are tempted to try their luck in these two reserved rivers. It is to be considered whether the Marie ought not also to be reserved. Indeed, I would strongly recommend that all streams in which salmon fry are placed should be reserved. Pot hunters might at first grumble, but as it is doubtless intended eventually to lease the streams to no true angler or good Canadian but would be submissive to a measure intended solely for the public benefit, for when the smolts are over a year old and leap at the fly, inexperienced anglers cannot readily distinguish between trout and salmon, and sometimes would not if they could. Such persons would be apt to basket all that came to hand, without a thought to the future salmon fishery. The very liberal system of granting free angling passes, now in use, if extended to all streams should be sufficient to satisfy every true sportsman. In rivers not reserved a fair share of young salmon has been observed. At Bonshaw, Queen's County, Warden Mathieson calls the appearance of fry good. A few adults were seen as early as the 15th of October in the river flowing into the New London Bay. Warden Murphy confirms that there was a moderately good supply of fry observable in these streams. Some few grown fish were observed in the rivers of Prince County.

Several nets have been seized in different streams and destroyed. Offenders, being generally neighbors of the Warden, watch his movements, and it is rarely that the owner of an illegal net can be detected in the act of handling it. When nets seized are put up at auction there are usually no bidders excepting the person suspected, or his friend, who buys it for a trifle with the intention of using it again on the first opportunity. It is therefore found better to cause it to be destroyed by authority of a warrant from me as J. P. under Section 16, sub-Section 4 of the Act. Illegal fishers of oysters are in most instances the poorest of the community, frequently boys who are cunning enough to borrow a boat without the owner's permission, knowing that it will be reclaimed. In such cases, where there are no effects to pay a fine, the offenders have been mulcted in the costs and let go. This has generally served as an example, for I have been unwilling to involve the Government in the expense of sending persons to gaol in any of the cases that have yet occurred, when a lesser punishment would have sufficient effect. Two boats confiscated and sold for having oysters on board in the close season were bought in for use of the Warden and Inspector, and a third was sold to cover expenses. An ex-Warden was convicted of fishing in a reserved river, with fine or imprisonment, but the fine was remitted, verbally, by the Minister on condition of the payment of costs of prosecution. A saw miller was fined for casting sawdust into the stream and has appealed on points of law. In addition to these a number of lesser offenders have been warned and put under promise of amendment.