

NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE LOBSTER FISHERY FOR 1887.

Extracts from Reports of Fishery Overseers in New Brunswick.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY.

Overseer Hickson.—The lobster fishery continues to grow worse with every season. Each succeeding year finds the fish scarcer and the average size smaller.

Overseer Hache.—The catch of lobsters was smaller than last year.

Overseer Cormier.—Lobsters continue to grow scarcer and smaller. But one factory was in operation in the district and 6½ lobsters were required to fill a can.

Note.—Mr. Cormier is strongly of opinion that fishing should be allowed only from 15th August to 31st October in each year.

Overseer Poirier.—Lobster fishing here was a failure. The only way of saving this fishery that I can suggest, is either to stop fishing for three years or to make the traps in such a way that small lobsters will not be taken. Officers should be authorized to inspect all traps before they are put out and see that the slats are wide enough apart to allow the small fish to escape.

Overseer Ache.—Lobsters grow scarcer and smaller every year.

Overseer Boyd.—A decreased catch of lobsters. These continue to grow scarcer and smaller, and without protection the business will soon cease from want of fish.

Overseer Sewell.—The decrease in lobsters shows that the business has collapsed much sooner than was expected. Last year three factories were in operation; this year two of them closed up, and the remaining one, having all the fish to itself, put up but 16,760 cans—less than was packed last year by 33,536 cans.

Overseer Mauzeroll.—Lobster fishery was a failure. Three lobster factories were closed for want of fish, and the only one that continued to operate did not pay working expenses. The canning business has ceased to be a paying industry on this part of the coast.

RESTIGOUCHE COUNTY.

Overseer McPherson.—The lobster fishery is steadily decreasing, as well in the average size of the fish as in the numbers taken.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Overseer Stymast.—The lobster factories closed for want of fish long before the season ended.

Overseer Robichaud.—Only two lobster factories started this season. These soon closed and took their traps on shore for want of fish.

KENT COUNTY.

Overseer Guimon.—Lobsters are getting scarcer and smaller. The catch falls below that of last year by 100,000 pounds.

Overseer Hannah.—Lobsters were scarce; the quantity canned falls much below that of last year, and some of the factories closed for want of fish before the end of the season.

Overseer Girouard.—About the same quantity was canned as previous year.

Overseer Cormier.—Lobsters continue scarce and small and the quantity canned was less than last year.

WESTMORELAND AND ALBERT COUNTIES.

Overseer Deacon.—There were nineteen lobster factories in operation this year; nine of the old factories were closed during the whole season, but five new ones were operated. The returns show a decrease in the catch of 95,760 pounds. Each year shows a reduced catch notwithstanding the extra labor and apparatus employed.