

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. John McNab, of New Westminster, was appointed, on probation, inspector of fisheries for the province of British Columbia, in place of the late Thomas Mowat.

Mr. T. S. Higginson, Crown Timber agent at New Westminster, has been authorized to act as fishery overseer without salary, in the district assigned to him as such Crown Timber agent.

MANITOBA.

Mr. H. Martineau, of Manitoba House, was appointed a fishery overseer for Lake Manitoba, Ebb and Flow Lake, Dog Lake and streams falling thereinto.

Mr. E. T. Stevenson, Crown Timber agent at Winnipeg, has been authorized to act as fishery overseer without salary, in the district assigned to him as such Crown Timber agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. F. C. Gilchrist, of Fort Qu'Appelle, fishery overseer for Qu'Appelle River and tributaries, was promoted to the position of Inspector of Fisheries for the North-West Territories.

When the question of the reorganization at the fisheries service in Manitoba and the North-West Territories was under consideration, it was deemed advisable, in order to afford more efficient protection to the fish of these regions, to extend the provisions of the Fisheries Act, which empowers customs officers and other public officials to seize and confiscate any fish caught by unlawful means, or during improper seasons, to Indian agents, Crown Timber agents, forest rangers, homestead inspectors and other Government employes, and thus obviate the necessity of employing a large staff of guardians, at considerable cost, to protect waters where no great commercial fisheries are yet carried on.

Accordingly, with the concurrence of the Honourable the Minister of the Interior and of Indian Affairs, certain officers of his department, a list of which is hereafter published, have been appointed fishery overseers, with an allowance for travelling disbursements when engaged on fisheries services; it being understood that the first duty of these officers would be to their own department. The scheme is working satisfactorily, and it is confidently expected that the presence of these officers will put a stop to the wanton destruction of fish in these provinces.

With the view of obtaining full information regarding the fisheries in the North-West Territories, Inspector Gilchrist, of Fort Qu'Appelle, was instructed by this department to enquire into, and report upon, the whole matter. After spending some two months in a personal inspection of the chief fishing centres of the Territories, he sent a very full and interesting report (see appendix) on the reorganization of this service, suggesting that the North-West Territories be divided into thirteen districts, under the control of local fishery overseers.

The fish found in these remote regions are salmon trout, rainbow and bull trout, whitefish, pike, pickerel and coarse fish. The greatest destruction of fish seems to have occurred through the use of small meshed nets and seines by half-breeds and white men; the building of traps of stones and brush weirs to obstruct the passage of fish during low water in the spring and autumn. In the district of Edmonton, Indians are reported to have caught, during the spawning time, in 1890, some 60,000 whitefish, and Inspector