

REPORT.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
THURSDAY, 28th April, 1859.

THE COMMITTEE MET.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MR. MCKELLAR, Chairman.
MR. CHAPAIS,
MR. CIMON,
MR. BEAUBIEN,
MR. MACLEOD,
MR. A. P. McDONALD,
HON. MR. CAUCHON,
HON. MR. CAMERON.

And the following Report was unanimously adopted.

The Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report upon the operation of the Fishery Act, have the honor to present to your Honorable House the following Report.

Your Committee, after having examined several persons practically acquainted with the Fisheries, and having, with their evidence, collected all other information on the subject that they have been able to procure, and having consulted and examined the different Acts which regulate the Fisheries, and more particularly the Act of last Session, having also consulted several authorities referred to by the said evidence, have arrived at the following conclusions.

Your Committee, in reading the said books, have found, what reason and experience teach, that the salmon fisheries to be prosperous and assume commercial proportions, ought to be subjected to stringent regulations, and a severe method of protection; that such a system framed for the guardianship of the breeding fish, can alone ensure an adequate return to the fishermen, and secure the future success of the Fisheries; that owing to the absence of all protection, the salmon fisheries have been gradually falling off in Canada, whilst the contrary system has already raised the value of the same fisheries in Ireland alone, to the amount of £1,300,000.

The authorities consulted agree in saying that the greatest damage to the salmon fisheries is the multiplicity of fishing stations in the same river which represent too many conflicting interests, and are the cause that each pursue a selfish system of destruction incompatible with the improvement of fisheries on a large scale. That reducing to a small number the fishing stations at mouths of rivers and inducing a community of possession and combination of interest, is regarded as the most propitious for the development of the salmon produce.