

"enclose a card received from T. J. Brown, Little Dyke, as I know him to be a very observing man. I wrote him and I send you his answer. (As for seeing sawdust inside of a shad it is something I never remember seeing, and I have examined a good many in my time. I examined some this summer)." Again Mr. Davison writes: "I have continued my enquiries as to whether fishermen had ever seen sawdust in shad, and am unable to find the man who ever saw or heard of such a thing."

Overseer James A. Torey, of Guysboro', says:—"Respecting my personal experience of the effect of sawdust on fish in the rivers and streams, I must say it is very limited, as my district has not been overburdened with that commodity. Where the quantity is small, it has been invariably carried away by the stream or current, and no injurious effect has been seen; but where the quantity is large and there is not a heavy current to sweep it off, it water-soaks and sinks to the bottom, upon which I think fish will not rest, as their nature seems to be to search for clean gravelly bottom. Mills, generally speaking, are built upon branch streams, and in those branches or between the mill and the main stream fish are not generally found. Whether it is the sawdust or the dam is the cause I am at a loss to know, but I believe the latter is the principal cause. The old story about fish eating sawdust and thereby killing themselves, I don't believe a word of it, as their own instincts forbid such an idea. Where mills are erected on the main stream, with a flow of water sufficient to carry away the sawdust, I have found fish as plentiful at the tail of the mill as in any other part of the stream, and oftentimes more so. The dam is the 'stopper,' not the dust. I am of opinion that, if dams were made passable, and other obstructions cleared from the rivers, sawdust would not be so objectionable."

Overseer George W. Gilroy, of Oxford, Cumberland County, writes: "In my opinion the sawdust does little or no damage to salmon or other fish, especially in the time of the spawning season, as at such times fish are found in the streams in running shallow water where the sawdust is carried in the eddies away from such places where the fish deposit their spawn. I have paid very close attention for the past twenty years to the River Philip, and I believe the fish are as plentiful now as they were twenty years ago; and if good fishways were kept in the mill-dams, and all rubbish such as edgings, bark, etc., were kept out of the streams, I do not think there would be much complaint about sawdust going into the streams, or any reason for such complaints."

George Rawlings, Overseer of Fisheries, East Halifax, writes: "My opinion is that if the mill-dams had good fishways and the water kept in them properly, it would be a greater benefit to the fish than keeping the sawdust out of the water. The principal reason I see for keeping the sawdust out is where it fills up shallow harbors and prevents small vessels from lying close to the shore. I have enquired of several persons here who catch salmon with nets, and they object to