

“last year considerably, but I am of opinion that the fishermen have done better this year, so far as the mackerel catch is concerned, on account of the fish being of better quality and bringing better prices, and also on account of the cheapness of salt, and barrels. Codfish and herring have been a little below the average. The cause of the herring fishery being so low, is that the price obtained for them was not a sufficient inducement to pursue the fishing. There have not been so many salmon caught this season as last, principally owing to storms during the height of the season. The lobster factories have increased in number, giving employment to a large number of men and boys, which is a great help to the fishermen around the district.”

Ezekiel Sibley, Esq., Overseer for East Halifax, reports:—“In the river fisheries there is evidence that the system of protection is working to advantage. On all the rivers there is either a fish ladder in the dams, or a way made around the dam for fish to go up. At the mouth of the Musquodoboit River there has been built this season a large mill; a very good fish-pass was made at the end of the dam and large quantities of salmon and shad have been seen going up. There have been more salmon seen at the head of the Musquodoboit River this season than for some years previously. I saw a good many forty miles up the river. At Moses River there is a large mill erected this summer, with a fish ladder in the dam. The water was very high when I was there, I could not examine it very well, but persons living near said that fish went up in the spring. When I go there again, if there is any amendment necessary I will have it done. The proprietor said he would make any alteration that I required. These are large rivers and considerable quantities of fish ascend them and require sufficient passes. At Ship Harbor dam there is a very large and expensive ladder, up which large quantities of alewives went this spring. I went along the shore to all the mills, and have the satisfaction of saying that at every mill there is a good way for fish to ascend, and that the protection of the rivers has been beneficial and satisfactory. With respect to the catch, that of codfish has been much larger this year than last. Herring not so good. Mackerel on the Eastern part of the shore about the same as last year, and from Ship Harbor to Dartmouth a very large increase. On this part of the shore the mackerel set in later, and the fishermen did well. If prices had ruled as high as they did last year the fishermen would have had a bountiful year; as it is they have no cause for complaint. At the commencement of salmon fishing a number of applications were made to me for salmon fishing stands where parties have had stands for many years. In some cases others took possession and it gave much dissatisfaction. I think if there was a lease given to parties and a small sum charged for the privilege, it would work well. I fear this trouble will increase on the Eastern shore and there should be some way provided to give general satisfaction. The salmon fishery is very profitable and should be carefully guarded. There are in operation at present four large lobster factories on the eastern shore, doing a very profitable business and employing a large number of hands. I have taken the account of fish as carefully as possible, and think it is far below the actual catch, as many persons will not give the whole; there seems to be an inclination to give the catch as less when enquired for. I have no violations of the law to report this year; all persons seem willing to respect the law, and give their assent to what I recommend to them. Respecting Kent's Island salmon fishery, I have every reason to believe that the salmon fishermen have lifted or tied up their nets every Sabbath on which it was possible to do so. I would beg to recommend the appointment of wardens at Moses' River and at Ship Harbor.”

*Pictou County.*—Thomas Graham, Esq., Overseer for the Southern district of this county writes:—“I have no violations of the law to report. On all our rivers, as a general thing, the people seem inclined to respect the laws; but as there are no wardens at Carriboo, Toney's River and Cape John, I have no doubt some fish are unlawfully taken. I find great difficulty in getting the quantity of fish caught, value of nets, boats, &c., as the people think the Government wants the information for assessment purposes. On the Gulf shore from Cape John to Pictou, there is a large falling off in the herring fishery, and but a slight increase in the quantity of codfish as compared with last year's returns.