

their abundance or scarcity depends more on natural causes, than on either fish culture or protection, and prognosticates a falling off in the salmon catch. In this I partly agree with him and will endeavor to show some of the natural causes.

Quebec shows an increase of 142,000 lbs. of salmon and reports a fair season, angling scores small, but a fair supply of fish. New Brunswick Inspector gives an increase of 88,000 lbs. salmon, simply remarking it is one of the long expected *hatcher's booms*, and reminding us of that great year 1874, the year the hatcheries were started and which he declares have ruined the salmon fisheries, and although one of the most ardent supporters of pisciculture, in fact, personally assisting, because the results did not come in time and the hatcheries were not carried on according to his plan, condemned the whole in toto. In turning to the comparative statement in Report, page 16 we find

		total	of which	
for year 1869 salmon catch for Dominion		2,500,000 lbs.	sold fresh	193,000 lbs.
" 1872 "	" "	3,184,000 "	do.	1,500,000 "
" 1874 "	" "	6,000,000 "	do.	2,500,000 "
" 1875 "	" "	2,800,000 "	do.	1,700,000 "
" 1876 "	" year I.C.R. was opened	2,700,000 "	do.	1,500,000 "
Mar. Prov. catch for 1887 (excluding B C)		3,328,131 "	do.	2,341,000 "

Those are the figures by which the New Brunswick Inspector claims the ruin of salmon fisheries, and that New Brunswick caught 3,214,000 lbs. or over half of the total 6 millions of 1874. Looking at the matter with a view to find out what caused this extraordinary year, I can only see two reasons, first is, some 5 or 6 years previous, say in 1868 or 69, a very large number of parent salmon had a very favorable spawning season, their progeny escaped the dangers of river and sea, and so returned an enormous multitude never seen before or since, and ahead of British Columbia itself! I remember the years 1873 and 4 well, there certainly was an extra catch, and it stimulated many settlers to become fishermen, but I opine there is a slight error somehow of a couple of millions in the figures, when you consider $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions lbs. fresh fish sold (not canned as there are 2 millions lbs. of them) and consider we had no railway connections with the U. S. or the upper provinces, even steamers, not reliable and to the northern portions only weekly, it does appear "well, as if we had lots of them." It, however, very strongly supports Mr. Rogers' theory, there must have been some unknown natural cause for those two extra years. Surely the opening of a couple of hatcheries using 3 or 400 salmon of the remnant which escaped out of the six millions lbs. caught could not possibly have reduced the catch so low in the years following. Let me now from the report show the yearly value of fish and fish products of the Bay of Chaleur, in comparison with some other portions of the Dominion. The fishery pro-