

for the upper part of the county. I consider it impossible for one man to enforce the law in so large a district, and would recommend that at least one warden be appointed to assist the overseer the coming season.

OVERSEER MILLS, whose duty it is to protect the spawning beds in the upper waters of the South-West Miramichi, both branches of which flow through Carleton County, reports that his attention has been directed to this end, and that he has, in a great measure, put a stop to the spearing and illegal netting which formerly prevailed on these waters.

## YORK COUNTY.

OVERSEER ORR reports the catch of salmon in this county to be fifty per cent, less than that of last year, which he attributes to causes in operation in the lower portions and mouth of the river. The catch of bass has increased and a new industry has sprung up in the capture of sturgeons and eels, which bids fair to grow into considerable importance.

Wardens Campbell and Brown report a small catch of salmon. The latter says: "The causes of this scarcity I have not been able fully to understand; but one cause, which I have investigated and which I know has had a great influence in lessening the number of salmon, is the sawdust and rubbish which is allowed to go into the rivers from mills on the St. John and its tributaries, the prohibition of which I have constantly advocated. Another cause which has materially decreased the number of fish which reach this county, is the practice of using dritt nets in the harbor and its approaches. While this is permitted no increase in these upper districts can be expected."

## SUNBURY COUNTY.

OVERSEER HOBEN reports an improved catch of gaspereaux; but that of shad was less than last year, as was also that of salmon. The catch of bass was better, and the fish in fine condition. The sturgeon fishery and that for eels and pickerel have given new sources of industry to the people, and these fisheries will probably be pursued to a large extent in future. Overseer Hoben has devoted special attention to the sturgeon fishery and has satisfied himself that they spawn all through the months of July, August and September. He considers a close time and some minor regulations necessary to control the fishery and protect the spawning and young fish, so that over-fishing may not exhaust the stock in the river.

## QUEEN'S COUNTY.

OVERSEER HETHERINGTON reports as follows:—"Salmon have not been so plentiful as they were last year, and but few have been taken. Warden Phillips informs me that he saw numbers spawning below the rapids in Canaan River, and thinks, from their size, that they are the fish put into the head waters from the Miramichi hatchery. Shad have been scarcer than ever, but gaspereaux were plentiful the first of the season, and had the extended close time been enforced, I am persuaded that large schools would have reached their spawning places. Eels have always been very plentiful and there is now a prospect of a good business being done in their capture for the American market. Sturgeon fishing has attained considerable importance; a large number of fish were caught last summer, and the flesh packed in ice exported to American markets. I was misinformed last year as to the spawning time of this fish. From personal observations made this season, I am now sure they spawn in the months of July, August and September, the greater number in the latter two months. I would suggest that some suitable regulations be made to prevent this new industry from being destroyed by over-fishing."

## KING'S COUNTY.

OVERSEER BELYEA, of Westfield and Belleisle district, reports a very poor catch of salmon. In the early part of the season the catch of gaspereaux was better than