

in the name column in line with the information applying to that particular name. It must also be kept in view that the estimate of guardians required, must include the different seasons of a full year.

The name column is of course reserved to be filled in after the department has dealt with the recommendations, and will form the subject of a further communication.

It is expected that each fishery officer when preparing this estimate, will use every endeavour to economize the expenditure as much as possible, consistent with efficiency of the service, and care must be taken that no more guardians are recommended for employment than are absolutely necessary, and then only for periods during which the requirements of the respective localities demand.

It must be distinctly understood, that the present circular does not necessarily imply that the assistance of guardians is actually necessary in each district, *nor is it intended that they shall be employed in districts where fishery wardens are still retained.* The department not being in possession of requisite local information, this circular is intended to elicit it. Of course, where the districts of fishery officers do not cover extensive areas, or are comparatively unimportant as breeding places, or unlikely to be visited by poachers, the overseer is expected to efficiently protect his district without other assistance.

It will be observed that reference is made under the 4th heading to the nature of work, and a distinction between patrolling and general inspection is drawn. It is believed that the knowledge possessed by each fishery officer of the local features of his district will enable him to judge whether from the inclination and number of the residents, or from some other cause, the danger of breaches of the law and regulations is sufficiently constant to call for daily patrol, at certain periods ; or whether frequent irregular visits would not suffice. In the latter case, means should be devised by which the fishery overseer in whose district and under whose supervision the guardians are employed, would be able to satisfy himself that the times of the visits of inspection are not made known to the public.

In all cases, however, the overseer of the district must keep himself constantly advised as to the manner in which his guardians are performing their respective duties and the result of their work ; dismissing them promptly when they fail in their duty and reporting at once to his superior officer, in provinces where inspectors of fisheries exist, and where not to the department at Ottawa.

In recommending the rate of pay, it is presumed that it would vary as between the different classes of guardians.

Diaries are to be supplied to all guardians, who must record therein every act in connection with their duties ; the number of miles travelled each day ; by what means, and the result of such visits ; the names of all persons found violating the law or regulations, with full particulars in each case ; giving also the action taken to discover the names of the owners of nets or other fishing appliances seized, and the disposition thereof.

These diaries are to be sent periodically, as arranged, to the officer in whose district the guardian is employed, whose duty it shall be to critically examine the same, and, if in provinces where no inspectors exist, send to this department with any remarks or suggestions he may consider necessary. In other cases, they will be sent to the inspector of fisheries for the district with the same remarks, who in turn will transmit them to the department with any observations they may appear to him to call for.

No guardian will be paid without a certificate of the officer under whom he is employed, that he has properly performed his duties ; which information will be gained by the supervising officer from irregular and repeated inspection.

Each guardian of either class must take the formal oath of office, which can be subscribed before any magistrate or the fishery overseer in whose district he is employed.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

S. P. BAUSET,

*Acting Deputy Minister of Fisheries.*