

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

Overseer S. T. N. Sellon, reports as follows:—"Fishing was not a success this season, but there are good indications for the future. Herrings and mackerel were in abundance, but did not come into the harbours and bays; and for want of bait, line fishing was very poor. Although the catch of alewives on the Medway River was small, yet it can be reported upon favourably. The first run of alewives came earlier than usual and ascended the river without obstruction. The second school, in June, was moderately good; and that two runs of fish went up this river is inferred from the fact that large numbers of young fish, about a finger's length, came down in August, and in October many young fish about two inches long were also noticed in the ponds and still waters, going to sea. It is a source of gratification to report that an ordinary supply of these fine fish were taken many miles up the river, a circumstance unknown for many years. Salmon arrived in February, and in March went up the river unmolested, excepting by rod and line fishing and by Indians. The second run of salmon in this river, or the June school, seemed to keep the channel of the stream, and as the fish-passes were all in excellent order there is no doubt a good number went up the river. In June an Indian killed at Ponhook with rod and line a twenty-two pound salmon, and as the sea-lice were still on him, it is conclusive proof that he was but a few hours from salt water. On the last day of May many young salmon came from the breeding pools and went to sea. An equally favourable report cannot be made on Medway River. Salmon came in late, and not in abundance; but in October, after the fishing season was over, the harbour was alive with fish of a large size. Alewives were late coming in, but were abundant. At Robinson's Brook and Port Joli alewives have largely increased, and Mr. Robinson says he expects more profit in a few years from the fish than from his mill. He also says a good supply of young fish went to sea in August, and was surprised when I showed him in October plenty of fish about two inches long in the smooth waters above his dam. This is a proof that two runs of fish went to this brook. Similar favourable reports from Stewart's Brook, at Port Mouton, where alewives have much increased since this stream has been under the control of the Fishery Laws, and a more efficient ladder placed here during the present season. Lobsters were an ordinary catch during the first part of the season, but the fish were small, not much over the size required by law. The factory people observed the law; but as these establishments are situated at the extreme ends of the county and the fishing being around the shores, it occasions a large amount of expensive travelling to prevent fishermen from violating the law.

Fish-ways on Medway River are very good. This is proved by the fact that fish went up to the head waters in large numbers. Some of these structures, however, require improvements, but mill-owners decline doing so on the pretence that they were approved of by the Inspector of Fisheries so soon as they were made. A very fine and efficient ladder was built at the Tanaock dam this summer by direction of Mr. W. H. Rogers. The salmon spawning beds on the Brookfield, Pleasant and Westfield Rivers, and at Wild Cat, will be carefully looked after by the Wardens. When these beds were last visited the water was too high to enable to judge of the number of fish on them, but it is stated that a great many salmon went up. The law is generally well complied with. One man was fined for interfering with the Warden, but being very poor, with a family of young children who would have suffered had the father been sent to gaol, and as the chief object was to protect the Warden, the fine was allowed to remain in abeyance."

This very efficient officer closes his report with these remarks: "While my report does not show a good cash value for this year, appearances are in favour of an increase in the yield of the inland fishery for the future. I carefully attended to the interests of this fine county, with its very many mills and dams during the season as my diary will show, and find the work has largely increased."