

## APPENDIX No. 27.

## REPORT OF MR. VIBERT.

To the Hon. A. J. SMITH  
Minister of Marine and Fisheries,  
Ottawa.

GASPÉ BASIN, PROVINCE QUEBEC,  
31st December, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my Report for the past year on the operations connected with the Gaspé Fish-Hatching Establishment.

The new dam built last season proved perfectly secure and kept a good supply of water all the winter. The salmon ova turned out very well, a very small percentage died; and the young fish were placed according to your instructions in the St. John and Dartmouth Rivers.

I was somewhat disappointed at not being able to set my nets in good time to secure a number of parent fish; owing to freshets, it was the 27th June before we could put out a net, and by the 10th August only some fifty salmon had been captured, and during this period we raised the net twice or three times on account of the high state of the stream. In this position of affairs I found it advisable to set a net at Malbay River, and I accordingly made arrangements to secure salmon there and place them in ponds till the spawning season, and, compared with last year's operations, I had reason to be well satisfied with the number of fish captured at said river.

Being very anxious to fill my hatching house with ova this autumn, I started with men and canoes on the 3rd October up the Dartmouth River, and next evening we camped four miles above the falls, where there is a fine pool, and we found about fifty fish there. On the two following days we were employed making a crib to place the fish in, and on the 7th, Saturday, we seined and captured fifty-three large salmon and placed them in the crib without injury; it took over six and a half hours to secure those fish. Finding I had very few male salmon, I sent men on the 9th up and down stream, and the canoe from above reported some twenty fish in a pool not many miles above us. Next day, the 10th, we all went up and captured seventeen salmon, which we brought down in a wooden canoe; the rapids being very low at this time it was necessary for two men to wade in order to push our craft over as quickly as possible; we succeeded in placing our fish in the crib in good order.

On the 11th and 12th we went to Jean Louis Fork, about ten miles from our camp; here we only found a few salmon and no male fish amongst them. The river being very low, it was impossible to bring any fish down, and next day we managed to secure three male and three female fish, and placed all in the crib without injury. On the morning of the 13th October we captured eight more salmon in the pool at our camp, two of which were males, making eighty-four fish seined in the river. That afternoon we examined the fish and found four females ripe, so we commenced spawning operations; and on the 14th I came down with 60,000 ova, leaving Mr. Davis with two men in charge of the crib, and to continue the work. On the 16th, the river rose about fifteen inches, and Davis was compelled to move the crib several feet inshore; and before all was finished, the stream rose bank high, and it was very fortunate on this account that we had the salmon so secured or we might possibly have lost the best part of them.