

“ followed the alewives and remained in our harbor and close inshore. Five years ago we depended on outside fishermen for fresh fish. This summer we compute the catch in small boats at 150 qtls. per week for four or five weeks fishing. There were very few alewives in our rivers when the Fisheries Department assumed control of them ; this year 1,300 lbs. have been salted, and the people supplied with fish for smoking and for bait, while large numbers have ascended the rivers to their old spawning places. In September very many young alewives came down the river and went to sea. The report of the catch of salmon is much below the truth, fishermen being reluctant to tell the quantity taken. Many salmon were seen in the upper lakes during the summer, and in October very many were seen at the Milton and other dams on the river. Herrings were more abundant than for many years ; but very few were taken in consequence of the low price obtained. With proper care and a corresponding expense our rivers can be made as productive and as profitable as they were in former years, and at the same time not injure the great lumbering interests of this County.”

*Lunenburg County.*—H. S. Jost, Esq., the Overseer for the Western district of this County, reports as follows :—“ The returns herewith sent although showing a considerable falling off in some principal products, are, notwithstanding, nearly equal to those of 1871 in value ; the amount being \$360,839. The catch of herrings and mackerel is much less than last year ; while codfish is in excess. Herring could have been taken in much larger quantities, but the price to be got for them was not a sufficient inducement for exertion. Mackerel are of a better quality than those taken last year, and have generally been sent to the United States, where a fair price has been obtained for them. The Labrador fleet, as also the bay vessels, all returned early with full fares of codfish. The shore fishing was also good, but the ruling price up to this time being from sixty to eighty cents less per quintal than last year reduces the value of the catch. The hitherto uncertain fares in the North Bay mackerel fishing has had the effect of causing most of our vessels to seek other employments this fall. Lobsters in cans appear in the returns for this district this year ; an establishment recently set up at the Salmon River, New Dublin side, having put up 30,000 cans. The Chester establishment in the Eastern district put up 306,000 cans. A new establishment is now erecting buildings and machinery in the town of Lunenburg on a scale capable of doing a large business. It is probable they will cure more lobsters than the Chester house. I think such a continuous hauling on the same ground, without any regard to a close time, will tend greatly to exhaust this fishery ; and would recommend some regulations for its protection.”

“ The yield of salmon is somewhat less than last year ; from thirty to twenty cents per lb. were paid for them by dealers to pack in ice for the Boston market. The sudden fall of prices in the United States caused, it is said, by importations from California by rail, entailed some loss on parties who had bought rather freely. The fishways at Bridgewater Dams have not been improved as agreed upon, and the lower one has been somewhat injured by ice ; the lower dam has also been raised about a foot which will necessitate some little alteration in the fishway.”

“ Daniel Dimock, Esq., the Overseer for the Eastern district, says :—“ The time limited to gather the statistics of our fisheries should be extended a little, as it is impossible to ascertain the exact quantity until the shipping is closed. You will perceive quite a decrease of mackerel when compared with last year’s returns, but they are of a better quality. Large quantities passed along our coast, but they did not trace the shore, except in some few instances and comparatively few were taken. Cod is almost an average catch and brought a good price. Herring below the average. The lobster fisheries seem to be on the increase, and the establishment here is doing a good business. I think in summing up the whole we have no reason to complain of the deep during the past season, and our river fisheries still improve.”

*Halifax County.*—John Fitzgerald, Esq., reports as follows :—“ I commenced visiting my districts last May and as Margaret’s Bay is the principal place that requires looking after, being the chief place for salmon and alewives, and has four rivers running into it, it took the greatest part of my time. The fisheries have fallen off from those of