

As yet, however, these executives are ill supported, and much has yet to be done towards improving their position.

Until each province is completely awake to the importance of protecting its own fisheries by the establishment of a revenue or coast-guard, a man-of-war must be deemed absolutely necessary at certain periods to enforce such laws which the Legislature from time to time are empowered to pass; all Acts relative to the fisheries prior to 1850 having been repealed in that year by the Imperial Parliament, subject to being remodelled by future Acts of the House of Assembly; a new code may be said to be now under formation.

Civil Government of Fisheries.

Under the present system it would seem that the services of a man-of-war are called for as early as May, or even April.

Her Majesty's cruisers necessary under the present system.

Herring fishing commences at the Tusket's and Magdalen on the south-west coast of Nova Scotia, on 15th of the latter month, also more or less at Grand Manan at the same time, though few are caught before 15th May. In the northern part of the Bay line fishing begins in May, and the pollock, in Passamaquoddy Bay, come in about the same time.

Line-fishing is carried on more or less through the whole winter, according to the weather, which is very little to be relied on; after the fall of the year the fogs and rains of July and August are succeeded by dry and clear weather, and occasionally strong south-westerly breezes in the month of September, at the end of which fine weather may be said to be at an end.

Duration of the fishing season.

The herrings come into the southern head of Grand Manan, in immense numbers with spring-tides, between 13th June and middle of October.

On 15th October, the spawning season is said to be over, and the restrictions are withdrawn on that head; it is said that as many as 150 vessels may be seen at a time off the southern head, making the best of their time. An idea of the fearful destruction done to the fisheries on these occasions may be gathered from the fact, that not only are the nets burdened with masses of spawn, but the anchors and cables are said to come up ankle deep in the same.

I have mentioned the above facts to give a guide as to the necessary length of time for stationing a man-of-war in the Bay of Fundy, having received your instructions on that point.

Protected by boats and small vessels.

Should the province agree eventually to the establishment of revenue cruisers subject either to civil authority, or to control under the pendant, supported by the Government at home, the services of a small steamer of the size of "Lizard," or "Locust," might prove valuable, in the rapidity by which she might move from any one station to another, when they might be required; fuel is easily procurable.

The establishment of boat stations on the principle of our British coast-guard, and boats constructed for pulling or sailing, it seems to my humble experience, would do all the work that is necessary on shore, that is in the deep bays, rivers, and inlets.

From schooners of 30 tons, subdivided among the deep-sea fisheries and ripplings, the whole subjected to the control of the provincial revenue service, and a Government steamer, ready to act up to such suggestions which the officer commanding the latter, in his visits, might from time to time think proper to give.

They might be subdivided to this way—

On New Brunswick side:

Boat-Stations.

Deer Island, or Wilson's Beach (Campobello); Bay of Passamaquoddy; Islands of Grand Manan (station near the Southern Head); St. John's, and Musquash.

On the Nova Scotia side—

Boat-Stations.

Digby Gut, Bryer's Island, and Tusket's.

The stations for the revenue schooners might be as follows:—

On the New Brunswick side:

1st. For the north side of the bay, between Point Lepreaux and Basin of Minis, parallel of northern head of Grand Manan—one schooner.

2nd. Machias Seal Islands, Grand Manan, Bay of Passamaquoddy, as far as Point Lepreaux—one schooner.

For the off-shore fisheries on the Nova Scotia side:—

Between parallel of Cape Split and Bryer's Island—one schooner.

Bryer's Island, Seal Island, and Cape Sable—one schooner.

The protection of the Grand Manan, which is the key to the fisheries in general, demands constant attention. It may be looked upon as the key in this way: the wholesale and wanton destruction of the herrings which visit the bay, naturally must discourage the visits of the larger kind of fish, such as codfish, haddock, and pollock, who are chiefly dependent upon the herring for their support; the line-fishing, therefore, must fluctuate with that of the herring, and as the latter become scarce, is gradually removed to a greater distance from the shore; for instance, until I undertook to watch the spawning ground off Grand Manan, in the "Perseus" boats, and subsequently, in my absence, detached a boat for that sole purpose, fishermen were driven for their livelihood as far as eight and ten miles from the shore, while within the last few days they have again been tolerably successful in-shore.

Grand Manan, the key of the Bay of Fundy Fisheries.