

tinuous freshets protected and allowed to ascend to their spawning grounds. He reports grilse more plentiful than for many years, which gives good promise for the future.

*Kent County.*—The returns from this County show about an average catch, although the season was an unfavorable one for the fisherman's pursuit. Overseer Sutherland reports the catch of alewives as very small, which those engaged in the fishery attribute to stream-driving and other lumbering operations, combined with sawdust and rubbish from the mills. He adds: "The lobster fishery has not been so good as it was last year, owing to high winds and a generally stormy season, there are now five large establishments in the County for the catch and cure of this shell-fish, and two more will probably be added next season. They are mostly put up in hermetically sealed cans, but some are sent fresh to the United States packed in ice. The catch of salmon has been small, and all has been sent to the Boston market in ice. There have not been many oysters raked in Richibucto River, the quality being inferior to those found in other places. The facilities in this County for catching and curing fish of all kinds are equal to those of any place in the Dominion. Cod, ling, herring and mackerel, abound all along its coast, and the business requires only to be prosecuted with vigor to be highly remunerative."

Charles Cormier, Esq., Overseer of the Lower District of this County writes:—"The salmon fishery has yielded nearly an average catch, and many more would have been caught had it not been for the storms and cold weather in the early part of the fishing season, in consequence of which many nets were lost. Mackerel were larger than last year, and more plentiful, but not a large quantity was taken, as only a few people pursued this fishery. Spring herrings were not largely caught this season, owing to a continuation of northerly storms and cold weather, which seriously interfered with fishing operations; but the take of fall herring was considerably larger than that of last year. Cod fishing has yielded above an average take, and alewives about the same as last year. Smelts are abundant in our rivers, and are a valuable resource for our fishermen during the winter season. Lobsters are caught in large quantities, and are rapidly becoming a most important item of our fishing trade. The number of men employed in this fishery is fast increasing. Oysters are taken in large quantities in Buctouche and Cocaigne. The enforcement of the close season is having a good effect upon the beds which I think are now improving."

*Westmorland County.*—The fisheries in this County are not pursued with much vigor, the catch being mostly for home consumption. Overseer Deacon writes:—"As but little is done in exporting fish from this County, I cannot give you anything like an accurate return of the quantities taken. A large number of herrings are caught and consumed in different localities, in this and King's County. Although gaspereaux abound in our rivers very few are taken. Mackerel were plentiful in our harbor last season, but few were caught and those were used for home consumption. Smelts were taken in large quantities and shipped fresh to the Boston market. Although salmon had almost entirely deserted our river, they are now seen in considerable numbers ascending the Shediac and its tributaries. The opening of a passage through Gilbert's Mill Dam has enabled them to reach their old spawning grounds, and there is no doubt but they will again be plentiful. As many as thirty or forty have been seen in the upper waters. As for the oysters in our harbor I can say but little, they are fast becoming extinct, and very few are now taken: I would once more strongly urge the necessity of leasing the harbor for oyster farming, nothing but this will preserve our valuable bi-valve, the best probably in the world."

*Albert County.*—The shad fishery in this County shows a decrease with the returns of last year, which Overseer Cormia attributes to the lateness of the spring. The salmon fishery is improving in the lower part of the County, but in the Petitcodiac and Coverdale Rivers the increase is not so visible. The death of John Alcorn, Esq., the intelligent and active Overseer of this County, has left me without a detailed report of the fisheries in the several localities. I beg to call your attention to the necessity of appointing an active man as his successor in time to enter upon his duties with the commencement of next spring's fishing.