

R E P O R T

of the Committee appointed at the Meeting on the 19th January, 1858; That the Fish and Game of Lower Canada have within the last twenty years diminished greatly in numbers; Rivers which were formerly resorted to by Salmon when about to spawn are abandoned; Lakes which at one time, were celebrated for their Trout, now yield but small return to the fisherman, and grounds which a few years since swarmed with Game are now deserted.

Under these circumstances, it became the duty of your Committee to enquire into the causes which have produced these results, and also if possible, to discover the means by which the abundance of former days might be restored.

There can exist no doubt that the decrease in numbers of the Salmon tribe is owing to the facts that on their way to and from, and during their stay at the spawning grounds, they are subject to unceasing persecution and destruction, they are netted and speared without mercy, and but few of those that return to salt water, but for some marks of man's ingenuity.

The young fry also, though too small to be a source of profit, still in their way down the rivers to the sea, are netted and destroyed in great numbers.

The Trout also are persecuted and destroyed in the same way during the spawning season.

Spring shooting has largely contributed to the decrease of game in Lower Canada. In addition to the fact that a covey or brood of young is destroyed by the killing of the parent bird, it must be borne in mind that other birds are driven from their nests by fright and in all probability lay no more eggs during the season, wounded birds also are unfitted for incubation, and thus whole nests are destroyed.