

Appendix No. 3, Report of W. H. Venning, Inspector of Fisheries for New Brunswick, p. 97.

Annual Rept.
Dept. of Fish-
eries, 1888.

"This fishery (lobsters) has almost ceased to be a remunerative industry in New Brunswick. As I have pointed out for the last ten years in every report, this result was inevitable from the wasteful manner in which the business was pursued. When the average size of the fish had become so small that it took from five to six and a-half lobsters to fill a pound can, and when canners sought by increased production to make up for low prices in over-stocked markets, what other result could be expected? The following figures will show how rapid the decline has been in the last five years. The catch was:—

| | Cans. | Tons. |
|----------------|-----------|-------|
| " In 1885..... | 5,236,253 | 3,111 |
| 1886..... | 4,661,812 | 4,290 |
| 1887..... | 2,630,559 | 3,650 |
| 1888..... | 1,843,363 | 1,948 |

"In 1886 there were 163 factories in operation; in 1887 there were 123, and this year only 75 have operated, many of these not running full time for want of fish. The report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the decline and its causes, showed beyond doubt that over-fishing was the cause of all the trouble, and that sufficient protection had not been provided by the regulations. At that time fishing was allowed only from 1st April to 1st August, and all the facts collected showed that this did not save the fish from growing smaller and scarcer."

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

EXHAUSTION OF THE LOBSTER FISHERY.

In his annual report for 1887, Inspector Duvar writes: "Setting apart all local side issues, I may say that, along the whole 400 miles of island coast, lobster canning is completely exhausted."

ON THE INEXPEDIENCY OF MAKING DIFFERENT CLOSE SEASONS FOR NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The memorials addressed to the Department on this subject mainly emanate from West Point, Prince County, and Point Prim, Queen's County. This can, at best, be only regarded as the demand of fifteen factories out of thirty-five which are situated on the south side of the Island. The thing is not to be thought of for one moment, as any concession of this kind in a single instance would be sure to bring in shoals of similar applications from other quarters.

IT IS THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF THE LOBSTER TRADE IN FOREIGN MARKETS.

Owing to the inferior grade of goods prepared by some packers, the lobster business is in great danger of being seriously imperilled. Canadian packed lobster is at a very low ebb on English markets, so much so, that London green-grocers will have nothing to do with Prince Edward Island lobsters on account of their inferior quality. Some of the stock of 1886 is still unsold, owing to the poor quality.

PACKERS WILL BE RUINED.

No repressive regulation however beneficial it may be to the public at large, can be carried without hurting somebody. The lobster fisheries belong to the public, not to the packers. It is the Government's duty to preserve them, not only in the interest of the present generation, but in that of the future. The right of fishery in the open sea may belong to the public, but the Government is trustee for the public, and it is its duty to protect and preserve such a valuable industry against present as well as future contingencies.