

method by which spat is collected on potsherds strung on wire would answer here. Now that a pottery has been established in Charlottetown a few thousand *plats* of baked clay would cost but a trifle, and the result would be alike interesting in science and practice. It may be mentioned that the Indians are quiet neighbors, and some of the less indolent are employed in the fishery.

Shipments from the island were not over for the year at the date of writing this Report.

In spots where it has been possible for the Wardens to give strict supervision during the past two seasons and where the ground was not disturbed by fishers of mussel mud, considerable broods of young oysters have established themselves.

SALMON.

Nine thousand pounds weight of salmon are set against 6,805 pounds reported last year, the apparent difference being due to more careful collection of statistics. It cannot be said there is any regular salmon fishery either in stream or sea in this Province. An attempt, on a small scale, is made annually by a Mr. O'Connor, at Kildare Capes, Prince County, but the total result of his labor this season has been only 350 pounds. A very few have been accidentally captured in Meyrick's licensed deep-sea trap at Tignish, Prince County. On the north shore, from Naufrage to Tracadie, chiefly at St. Peter's, are the only localities where regular fishing is attempted. At present the fishing there is done by gill nets, by some few occasional fishermen who are resident by the shore. These persons have been notified that next year they may be called on to pay a tax on the fish caught, if not charged for a license, but were such a tax imposed it would be difficult to ascertain the quantity of fish caught without such a remodelling of the Warden's services as I propose in another part of this report.

As the salmon from the hatchery at Dunk River may be expected ere long to return to our coast, it is desirable to organize the fishery now, small as it is, with a view to the future. In the report on the lobster fishery I bring to your Honor's notice the urgent necessity there is to introduce a system of license for that industry, and I here suggest the desirability of issuing like license for assigned salmon stations. The principle being once established, and the practice extended to this Province, the remainder is a matter of detail and might be carried out either by making a charge for the rent of the station, or by licensing nets of a certain mesh, or by levying a tax on produce, or in any other way the Department may see fit.

All the salmon were sold fresh for home consumption, excepting a few boxes canned as an experiment at the new lobster factory of Shaw & Rolffe, Americans, near the mouth of St. Peter's Bay.

Complaint is made that salmon will not come in through the waters tintured with the offal of lobster traps. As all the salmonidæ love the purest water, there may be truth in this as a general assertion, but as a set-off, the Wardens of the three reserved rivers which debouche on the north coast report no perceptible diminution in the number coming up. Moreover, there are as yet few lobster stages near the localities where the salmon have been taken, so that the complaint has little immediate weight.

No correct record of the size of the individual fish taken could be obtained, but the average weight may be safely set down at ten pounds, which would show about 845 fish, and would form a basis for regulating the industry.

THE HATCHERY.

Last fall, 1879, the new Salmon Breeding Establishment at Dunk River was opened under the personal direction of Mr. Samuel Wilnot, Superintendent of Fish Culture, in accordance with whose plans the buildings and necessary works were erected and regulations made. The runnels were stocked with 600,000 eggs of the *salmo salar*, part obtained in the Dunk River and part imported from Nova Scotia.