The Government then gave me the appointment of Fishery Overseer for the Yamaska River and tributaries, including Pike River and Missisquoi Bay; furnished me with the Act and posters to be put up in the villages. The distance over which I had to travel was nearly two hundred miles; and I found the people, generally, pleased with the prospect that fishways were to be built, to encourage a return of fish to the Yamaska River. Many of the water privileges had changed hands several times; and as the Act provided that Government might aid, to the extent of one-half, the expense of building fishways, where they were thought advisable, I advised that all proprietors on the Yamaska or Pike River who would build fishways at their mill dams, should be helped by the Government. On the Yamaska River there were Tassie, Papineau, Stark, Meigs, Donahue, Bowker, Parkins, Olmstead, Leon, Marezie, Short, Brigham and Cameron, who cheerfully built good fishways. Mr. Dessaulles, of St. Hyacinthe, refused to obey, and the Fishery Department ordered me to issue a summons against him. I did not think it legal to do so, unless some person laid a complaint. Some time after, Mr. O'Malley laid the necessary complaint, and I summoned the Hon. Mr. Dessaulles. He failed to appear before the court, and in consequence was defaulted, and witnesses were sworn to prove that the defendant was guilty of the offence charged. The court then adjourned eight days, to render judgment.

The defendant did not fail to communicate with the Fishery Department, Ottawa, and they wrote me to the effect that they were very much surprised I had not held my court at St. Hyacinthe, to accommodate the Hon. Mr. Dessaulles, and that I should not proceed any further in the premises.

I replied, that as a magistrate, when I issued papers I first consulted my own convenience, next that of the plaintiff and his witnesses, and third, that the judgment rendered against the defendant was unquestionable, and would stand before any court. To this I received a letter, directing me