

license fee for bag-nets were increased to five dollars it would have the effect of protecting this valuable fish by lessening the catch, and then some profit would accrue to those engaged in the business. It seems sinful to have these fish wasted as they have been and are at present. There were nine lobster houses in operation in my district, and two new ones will be built for next season." Mr. Deacon strongly expresses his opinion that a change in the close time would be advantageous to packers without increasing the length of the fishing season, and he urges that such a change would prevent vast numbers of unhealthy lobsters from being taken. He proposes that fishing should commence 1st May and continue until 15th July, after which date no lobsters should be taken until the 15th August, when fishing should be allowed until 20th September. He considers it wanton waste to allow lobsters to be taken in dog days, at which time four fish will not yield as much meat as one healthy fish, and he expresses his belief that during the heated term they are not fit for food. Mr. Deacon is not alone in this opinion. Overseer McPherson, of Restigouche, expresses the same belief and urges the same change. The proposal is worthy of consideration and enquiry.

Since the death of Overseer Hugh Davidson, the Bay Verte division of this county has been without an officer. During the past season, I directed Overseer Deacon to make occasional visits through the district. It will be necessary either to appoint a new officer, or to include Bay Verte in the district of Mr. Deacon.

OVERSEER T. D. CORMIER, of Dorchester Bay district, reports a fair catch of shad of good quality, for which high prices were obtained, ranging from \$8 to \$12 per barrel. Cod and herring were plentiful in the lower part of the district, but very little attention is given to these fisheries.

ALBERT COUNTY.

OVERSEER AKERLEY reports a decrease in the catch of shad, but an increase in that of salmon. Line fishing has not been pursued to the same extent as in former years, and but a small catch of sea fish was made. Fish-ways have been kept open and in good order in the dams across Salmon and Point Wolf Rivers. Those in the dams of Coverdale and Pollet Rivers have been torn out by freshets. These small rivers are so obstructed by logs and lumber, and have been so long deserted by migratory fish, that no practical end would be served by their reconstruction. Mr. Akerley expresses his belief that these rivers should be exempted from the requirements of the Fisheries Act, and in this opinion I entirely agree, as fish-ways there would be of no practical benefit.

VICTORIA COUNTY.

OVERSEER MCCLUSKEY reports that never, in his recollection, were salmon so scarce in the upper parts of the St. John. This he attributes to several causes. Drifting outside and inside the harbor of St. John, overfishing in the lower parts of the river, sawdust and mill refuse in the water, and want of proper protection on the Tobique River. Mr. McCluskey says: "In several former reports I have urged the appointment of two special guardians, whose duty it would be to travel continually up and down the Tobique, and work in concert with the local wardens, but no notice has been taken of the matter." I have frequently called attention to the necessity of more assistance on the Tobique, and now beg to repeat that I consider the appointment of at least two special guardians should be no longer delayed.

CARLETON COUNTY.

OVERSEER BURTT reports but few fish taken in his county. He still complains of the persistence of mill-owners in allowing sawdust and rubbish to go into the river. The evil is increasing rather than diminishing, and calls loudly for some effectual check. The district of this officer is so extended that he finds it impossible, without assistance, to give it necessary supervision, and he asks that a warden be appointed