

appear willing to comply with the law, thinking something in the shape of a fish-ladder is sufficient. He, in company with Warden Hatfield, visited Carleton Mill on the 31st May last, and finding the fish-ladders out of repair, gave the owners notice to open the mill gates or dam forthwith. They begged hard to be allowed to repair the ladder, stating that a good passage could thereby be made for fish. With this understanding, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Hatfield left, stating at the same time that the latter would return in a few days, and that if the ladder worked satisfactorily the order would not be enforced. He accordingly visited the mill again on the 7th June, and finding the ladders did not give sufficient passage to the fish reported the fact to Overseer Gardner, who immediately issued a summons. On the 14th June in connection with P. S. Hamilton, Esq., Fishery Inspector, Mr. Gardner again visited this dam and after remaining about nearly an hour, saw no fish pass up, although the river at the time was full of them. On the 14th June the mill-owners were fined twenty dollars and costs, which they paid. They then opened their mill race, giving the fish a clear passage for about a week, and large numbers went up. Mr. Gardner further writes: "This river is a very important one, and from what I see of the working of fish-ladders my opinion is that our mill-owners either do not understand how to put them up, or that they will not give a sufficient pass for fish. I have found no difficulty with other mill-owners who have always been willing to open their gates to give the fish a free pass, and most of them agree with me that the fish-ladders will not do it." Mr. Gardner seems to have changed his opinion from last year when he wrote: "I was at Carleton mill dam on the 2nd June, and took with me Warden John A. Hatfield. On that day the river below the dam was full of fish, and we had a good opportunity of seeing the working of the fish-ladders which had been placed there according to the instructions left by Mr. W. H. Rogers. That day the fish had no difficulty in getting up. If the owners of the mill will keep the ladder in as good condition during the fishing season of next year it would be all that is required.

Overseer Gardner recommends the appointment of a Warden at Chegoggin River, as an extensive and growing fishery is starting up in that part of the county, extending from the county line at Green Cove to Yarmouthtown, and the alewives are increasing on that river, and would still more increase if properly protected. The distance is so great from any of the Wardens that it is impossible to have the necessary supervision.

SMELBURNE COUNTY.

Overseer Ryer reports a falling off in some branches of the fishery this year, salmon were scarce; herrings a failure. The net fishermen are of opinion that lobster pots being set on spawning grounds keep the herrings out of the bays and harbours. There has been a large increase in haddock fishing which makes up for the decrease in herrings. Cod and other deep sea fish have been an average catch. There is a marked improvement in some of the rivers. Shelburne River has six dams on a distance of 12 miles, all provided with fish-ways. There are no obstructions as yet in Birchtown Round Bay and Indian Brook. Clyde River is in a bad condition at present. Notwithstanding all the efforts that were made to get these fish over Sutherland's dam the ladder is a failure, and will always be so until the Department sends a proper officer to superintend the building of a proper fish-ladder, which can only be done in midsummer. Barrington River is one of the best streams in the County for alewives. Large quantities of these fish ascend to the Great Lake to spawn, a distance of 12 miles from the Warden at Barrington Head, and as there are five or six families settled at the lake it is important that a Warden be appointed there for the protection of fish. Mr. Ryer speaks of Samuel Nickerson, who lives at the lake, as a good man for the office, who would attend to the duties for a small salary. Mr. Ryer had to travel 60 miles last June to destroy a fish-trap on this river. There are two lumbering establishments on the Jordan River, and a large quantity of sawdust and mill rubbish have been allowed to fall in it, which has the effect of keeping alewives and salmon from entering and going up.