

After a careful consideration of the above facts in connection with the licensing of oyster grounds in Canada, it was decided :—

1. To fix the fee at \$1 per acre, calculated upon the acreage at low water, as shown on the approved plan of survey.

2. To fix the maximum limit of areas.

The above system is now in full operation, and during the present year licenses have been granted to the following parties, who have already entered upon the work of planting and cultivating the grounds licensed to them :—

Messrs. D. Hatton & Co., Montreal, 81 acres near Baie du Vin river, county Northumberland, N.B., licensed for fifteen years.

Mr. Joseph Hayley, Ruskin, 2 acres in Pownal Bay, Queen's county, P.E.I., licensed for nine years.

Mr. Charles A. Hyndman, Charlottetown, P.E.I., 40 acres in North River and Ellen's Creek, Queen's county, P.E.I., licensed for nine years.

Several other applications from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and British Columbia are under consideration ; and it is expected that the work of protecting and re-stocking our oyster beds, which has so propitiously begun, and which appears to be so favourably looked upon by an intelligent public, will be greatly expanded, and ultimately achieve the end which this department has in view—that is to say, placing the oyster industry of Canada upon a firm and stable basis of prosperity, so as to provide an additional source of wealth to our country, and particularly to our maritime population.

THE BAIT SUPPLY.

The following is the first of a series of bulletins it has been decided to publish from time to time in aid of the fishing industry :—

The question of obtaining a continuous and reliable supply of bait is the one which if happily solved will do much to improve the condition and status of both the coastal and the deep-sea fisherman. At the present time much of the best fishing time of the year is lost in waiting for a supply of bait.

During the spring the early schools of herring are plentiful at many points on the coast, and if a sufficient supply of these can be put up, properly frozen when fresh, and kept in cold stores, where the temperature never rises to the freezing point, the fish thus treated will be available as bait after the ordinary supply of herring has been used and before the squid or other bait strikes in on the shores.

The questions for decision are—

1. Will herring thus treated form a good bait ?
2. Can they be made available to the boat fishery ?
3. Can they be put up in such quantities and at such prices as will place them within the reach of the fisherman, and at the same time yield a fair return to the merchant or capitalist who embarks in the business ?

1. Frozen herring will make a very good bait when properly handled, much superior to clams or any other reserve bait which can be obtained to keep the fishing going after the spring schools of herring have left, but the fish must be fresh when frozen ; you cannot freeze soft, half-rotten fish and expect them to come out firm.

2. Can they be made available to the boat fishery ?

Small freezers and cold stores can be put up in every fishing hamlet, and actual experiment has demonstrated that the frozen herring wrapped in an ordinary canvas bag and kept under the bottom boards of a fishing boat out of the sun have remained in the boat frozen for a period of twenty-four hours, and at the end of that time have had to be put in the sun to thaw out before being cut up to put on the hooks.