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WILL THE LOBSTER FISHERY FAIL?

The demand for this excellent article of human food is increasing yearly, and the system of canning the crustacean is as perfect as it possibly can be. The question may, however, be asked,—Will the thousands that are captured every year, cause a scarcity? Will it ultimately produce a failure in the business? Our opinion is that the unlimited license given to parties to net salmon in estuaries and inside large rivers, notably the Natashquan, is to a great extent, the cause of the late scarcity of the fish in the Lower St. Lawrence. We are told that a French steamer made two trips from France to the North coast of the Lower St. Lawrence for Salmon this season. They offered and paid ten cents per pound, which is a fair price at risk. There are no objections to this trade, but we decidedly put down our foot and say with indignation, that the Government who aids and abets such wholesale slaughter has yet a heavy penalty to pay to her people. The law has been violated for filthy lucre. We trust this will not occur again. If similar netting is carried on in other large maritime rivers, the result will certainly continue to decrease the number of salmon. We have learned from one of the party who fished the Natashquan this season, that with few exceptions, all salmon taken with the fly had marks of a struggle in nets which were placed inside the estuary in the river. This is not giving fair-play to fish or lessees, the latter coming annually from England to enjoy the sport. Those who pay well for river surface fishing, have a right to demand the Fishery Department to keep the entrance clear, and we have positive proof that Mr. Jervois, the lessee of the Natashquan, has not been fairly treated by the Department, especially this year. The Federal Government make the sporting resources of the Dominion known to Europeans by distributing pamphlets

by agents throughout the nations, and a man of means induced to lease a Canadian river for the space of a month, afterwards discovers that the fish expected to run fresh from the sea instead of being full of vigor are lying sick at the bottom of a pool. This is anything but encouraging to sportsmen, particularly British Now, regarding the lobster it is different in its mode of life from a fish. The object of proprietors of canning houses should therefore be to prevent the destruction of female lobsters. When they are carrying their ova they should not be destroyed, but allowed to escape. It is the only safe mode by which the species may be kept increasing. Besides the young lobster has so many enemies that we may safely say thousands are destroyed after the crustacean becomes the size of our river crawfish. It is a glaring fact that this important lobster business is not properly recorded. We have no accurate figures as to the number taken in the Dominion for canning, nor any descriptive account of the establishments for that purpose. Tommycods and eels are noticed; fishes which are of little commercial value outside the Province of Quebec. Salmon canning is also in the same category as the lobster. Surely those two branches of Canadian industry should have some recognition among our fishing resources. Of course we make this statement from a Fishery report given in our last number. There may be Reports giving the amount of salmon and lobster collected in the Lower St. Lawrence for canning purposes, but they were not sent to us, and we therefore place the subject before our readers in order to show how this industry stands. The bays of Anticosti abound with lobsters, and although this fact has been known for many years, no attempt has been made to establish a canning-house on the Island. It occurs to us that there is a lack of keen venture among the Canadian people in