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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

PIERRE FORTIN, ESQUIRE, MAGISTRATE,

IN COMMAND OF THE EXPEDITION FOR THE

PROTECTION OF THE FISHERIES

IN THE GULF OF THE ST. LAWRENCE,

DURING THE SEASON OF 1857.

Printed by Order of the Legislative Assembly.

TORONTO:

JOHN LOVELL, PRINTER, CORNER OF YONGE AND MELINDA STREETS.
1858.

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R E T U R N

TO AN ADDRESS of the Legislative Assembly, dated 19th instant,
for a copy of the Report of Pierre Fortin, Esquire, Stipendiary Magistrate, in command of the schooner "La Canadienne," during the summer of 1857.

(By order,)

T. J. J. LORANGER,

Secretary.

Office of the Provincial Secretary,
Toronto, 21st April, 1858.

A N N U A L R E P O R T.

Notwithstanding my most strenuous efforts to proceed to the Gulf of St. Lawrence with the Government schooner "La Canadienne," immediately on the opening of the navigation, in obedience to the instructions which I had received, I was unable to leave Quebec before 7th May.

In the first place, unfavorable weather had prevented the contractor, Mr. Davy, from executing the needful repairs ordered by the Government as early as I wished, and afterwards, when I was prepared to sail, adverse winds detained me in the roadstead at Quebec. However, thanks to the good sailing of "La Canadienne," and her excellent qualities as a sea-boat, I succeeded in reaching the Magdalen Islands on the 14th, having put in at Malbaie (below) and Percé.

I thus arrived at the Magdalen Islands one week earlier than last year.

At Malbaie I met Mr. Lavergne, Mayor, and two Councillors of the Municipality of Fox River, who requested me to proceed immediately to Fox River, where some disturbances had taken place arising out of municipal matters. Especially, they required my assistance and that of the constabulary force under my command, on the 1st of June, being the day of the meeting of the municipal Council, for the protection of the Councillors, who were threatened with ill-usage if they sat and passed by-laws.

I had the honor to transmit to the Government in June last, Mr. Lavergne's letter, in which he and others made a requisition for my services at Fox River, with reference to the disturbances at that place.

I told Mr. Lavergne that he might rely on my readiness to proceed as soon as possible to the place where my presence was required, and that in any case I would be at Fox River on the 1st of June.

On arriving at the Bay of Plaisance (Magdalen Islands), I communicated with Mr. John J. Fox, the Collector of the Port of Amherst, to whom, as on former occasions, I tendered my assistance and that of the hands under my orders, with the use of a boat when required.

As soon as the weather was favorable, I unshipped a large boat with a shifting iron keel, which I had had built at Quebec, for the service of the Custom House at the Magdalen Islands. This craft, the want of which had been long felt in this remote place, will enable Mr. Fox, or his assistants, to move at any time during the season of navigation, from Amherst Harbor to House Harbor, to proceed to any point in the islands, or even to make a tour of them if necessary.

I was informed that there had not been a single wreck in the waters of the Magdalen Islands since my departure last year.

The winter had not been as severe as usual, and at no time had there been so small an amount of suffering among the fishermen.

This circumstance must, no doubt, be imputed partly to the fact that the different fisheries on the coast of the Magdalen Islands had been successful in 1856, but it must also be due to the fact that the fishermen applying themselves more than formerly to agriculture, have by this means rendered their situation less precarious than it was, when solely depending on their occupation as fishermen. Last year, the crops of wheat, barley, oats, and vegetables were so good that many of the people had, in these articles, ample means of subsistence for the winter.

When I arrived at Amherst in the Spring, the fishermen had not bought from the storekeepers fifty barrels of flour. At the same date, in former times, hundreds of barrels had been purchased by them. It is, in my opinion, a fact worth mentioning, that at Amherst Island there were ground, in a mill, built chiefly through the efforts and influence of the Rev. Mr. Bouchault, the missionary there, more than 5,000 minots of different kinds of grain, harvested in 1856, besides what was ground on the other islands in hand mills. The changes brought about in this part of Canada may be better appreciated when I state that on my first voyage to the Magdalen islands in 1852, a few hundred bushels of grain only were harvested, and that even this the inhabitants had to carry to Prince Edward's Island to be ground, 20 leagues off.

The schooners which had left House Harbor and Amherst Harbor for the seal fishery on the ice, had returned a short time before with tolerably good cargoes. They had not lost a single individual of their crews, nor had any of their vessels suffered the least damage in that dangerous pursuit. The success of the fishery had slightly exceeded that of 1856. In that season twenty-one schooners captured 4,923 seals, while in 1857 nineteen schooners brought back the spoils of nearly 6,000.

The reason why no more than nineteen schooners were engaged in the seal fishery in the present year, while in 1856 there were twenty-one, is that nine of the vessels which visited the ice-floes last year, afterwards perished at Green Island, on the coast of Labrador, in a voyage to the cod-fishery, as mentioned in my report of last year, and that notwithstanding all the efforts made by the fishermen they could not be replaced with new ones in a single season. There are, however, several schooners on the stocks at Grindstone Island, and elsewhere, and I believe that the fleet to be sent to the seal fishery next year will be more numerous than ever.

I must not omit to state that, on 24th March, large ice fields, driven by the N. and N. W., wind, had grounded on the coast over against l'Etang du Nord, the

western point of Amherst Island and the Basin, and that about 4,000 seals, nearly all young, were killed there in four or five days. But this successful hunt had not passed without an accident, and the consequent loss of two men belonging to l'Etang du Nord, who had ventured too far on the ice-field, and been unable to return before the land wind carried the ice out to sea, and thus cut off all communication with the land.

The herring-fishery had commenced about a week at House Harbor and Amherst Harbor. On the 13th, one draught of the seine in Ryan Creek, Grindstone Island, had brought in about 300 barrels of herring of good quality. There were at Amherst Harbor, nearly a hundred schooners engaged in this fishery in the Bay of Plaisance, with nets and seines. On the 12th a large quantity of herring had been taken in Shea Creek, and on the 15th a haul was made with two seines, the result of which was not less than 400 barrels of fish each.

From the commencement of the fishing, the herring had swarmed in the Bay of Plaisance, to a degree never exceeded in the recollection of the fishermen. The beach was in many places covered with the spawn of the female fish, and the water to a distance of several arpents from the shore was whitened by the melt of the males.

The most experienced fishermen at Amherst Harbor gave me the following account of the course taken by the shoals frequenting the waters of the Magdalen Islands: They first enter the Bay of Plaisance, which by its great width and capacious entrance seems to have been made expressly to intercept the numerous shoals of fish which, impelled by the strongest of all animal interests, that of reproducing their kind, leave the depths of the ocean for the Gulf of St. Lawrence in search of a place suitable for the deposit and hatching of their spawn. They next move towards House Harbor, and then towards the Grand Entry. Lastly, they make the tour of the island, and show themselves successively at le Moulin, L'Anse à la Cabane, and L'Etang du Nord. Schooners which have arrived too late in Amherst Harbour for the fishery in the Bay of Plaisance have frequently proceeded to the Grand Entry, and succeeded in taking, in a few days, full cargoes of excellent herrings.

On the 16th, I received the following letter, in answer to the offer which I had made to the Mayor of the Municipality, of my services to assist him in enforcing the by-laws passed by the Council.

" OFFICE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

" Magdalen Islands, 16th May, 1857.

" SIR,—The Municipal Council of the Magdalen Islands, with much satisfaction, welcomes your return to these Islands, at a period so much earlier in the season than usual, and accepts with thanks your offer to place at its disposal the force under your command, to assist in carrying out the laws for the regulation of the Fisheries, and affording us that protection so much required at this time, with a fleet numbering upwards of 100 sail of fishing vessels in our harbors, and whose crews amount to as many as 600 men of all characters.

" I am, sir,

" Your most obedient servant,

" (Signed)

JOHN J. FOX,

" Mayor.

" Pierre Fortin, Esquire, J. P.,

" Commanding ' La Canadienne,'

" Pleasant Bay, Magdalen Islands."

My duties, from my arrival at the Magdalen Islands till my departure for the Bay of Chaleurs, on the 21st, consisted in visiting Amherst Harbor every day, in proceeding to the different fishing grounds, where the seines were drawn, and in watching over the observance of the by-laws, and the maintenance of public order.

On the 16th I placed my long-boat at Mr. Fox's orders, and he sent it, with Mr. McCormick, the custom-house officer on the station, to visit all the vessels in the port of Amherst Harbor. They all had regular papers except two, which were in port, and just ready to sail. The captains of these proceeded to the Custom House, when notified to do so.

On the same day ten schooners sailed with full cargoes of herring. In the afternoon Captain McKinnon, of the steamer Reindeer, of Babington, hauled his seine near Les Demoiselles, and took herring enough to fill 1000 barrels. The seine used on this occasion was 110 fathoms in length, by $8\frac{1}{2}$ in depth. The wings were 60 fathoms each.

The same captain informed me that he had, a few days previously, enclosed in the same seine more than 2000 barrels of herring, of which more than 500 barrels had been landed; that afterwards a gale having sprung up from seaward, he had been compelled to take up his seine on account of the heavy sea which came tumbling in, and threatened to tear it in pieces on the rocks. On the following day, the sea being calm, the fishermen hauled up at the spot where the seine had been drawn, at the depth of a fathom, between 200 and 300 barrels of herring, which had been killed by the extreme pressure of the wings of the seine, and had remained at the bottom.

These instances will serve to shew in what abundance the herring frequents the Magdalen Islands, and the immense extent to which the fishery might be carried on, if a greater number of Canadians engaged in the pursuit. It is true, the herring, taken at the season mentioned, is not in the finest condition, and is even lean; but it is in good order for smoking; and that is the kind of cured herring which keeps best in hot climates.

It has frequently been asserted that the herring fishery ought not to be carried on at the Magdalen Islands in the spring, because at that season the fish resort thither to accomplish the important function of reproducing their kind, by spawning on those parts of the coast which have shallow water and are sheltered from the seaward, and because, being disturbed in the performance of this duty, they will ultimately abandon the coasts of those Islands, and our fishermen will be deprived of a great source of wealth. But the persons who maintain this theory are no doubt ignorant of the fact that the shoals of herring appear on the coast of the Magdalen Islands, only in the spawning season, and that if the opportunity of catching them be neglected at that period no other will be found throughout the season. In short, Providence has decreed that these fish should multiply in such astonishing numbers [more than 7,000,000 of eggs having been counted in a single female herring] that it is almost impossible to effect any perceptible diminution of them at the Magdalen Islands, even if 50,000 to 100,000 barrels were taken yearly; provided, however, that the entrance of the bay of Plaisance be not obstructed with nets, a pernicious practice which formerly prevailed, but which I have prevented since my visits to the Magdalen Islands, during the spring fishery, commenced.

On the 20th, the captain of a schooner at anchor in Amherst Harbour, came on board to make a complaint against the master of the schooner, Mary Jane, of Digby, who, in quitting the bay, passed unnecessarily over one of his nets and tore it so as to render it useless.

I despatched the second officer of "La Canadienne" on board the "Mary Jane," which was under sail, to desire the Captain, Benjamin Winchester, to anchor and come on board. This he immediately did, and agreed to pay the value of the net which he had torn, without further proceeding being necessary.

As the herring fishery in the Bay of Plaisance was nearly over, and only a small number of fishing vessels remained in Amherst Harbour, I resolved to proceed to the Bay of Chaleurs to repair the damage suffered by "La Canadienne" on the morning of the 12th May, between the Magdalen Islands and the Island of Capo Breton, during a heavy gale from the North-west; as, if the work of repairing her were quickly despatched, I might hope to return to the Magdalen Islands in time for the mackerel fishery, after my visit on 1st June to Fox River.

Accordingly I gave orders to sail the next day.

On the 21st, the anchor was speak at 4 a. m., and after a run with light winds from the E. and S. E. we came to an anchor on the 22nd, at 7 p. m., at New Carlisle, the County Town of Bonaventure.

I immediately communicated with the public officers and the principal inhabitants of the place, and proceeded to Paspebiac, distant from New Carlisle only four miles, to make arrangements with the agent of the house of Robins & Co., for the necessary repairs to "La Canadienne."

On the 23rd, "La Canadienne" was moored at Paspebiac, and Mr. Lebrun, the master-builder belonging to the house of Robins & Co., came on board to examine the bowsprit, which he found to be partly sprung a few feet from the knight-heads, and accordingly condemned. He took steps to replace it with a heavier stick, and also to put in another jib-boom, in place of that carried away by the same sea which had damaged the bowsprit.

I next visited the fishing establishments of Paspebiac, and set off for Carleton to tender my services to Mr. J. N. Verge, Crown timber agent for that part of Canada, in case the persons who had cut timber on the Government lands should refuse to conform to the requirements of the law relating to lumbering operations.

On the 24th, I arrived at Carleton, and saw Mr. Verge, who informed me that he had to settle accounts with several persons who had carried on lumbering on the public lands adjacent to the Rivers Restigouche and Nouvelle, but that he did not anticipate any difficulty in collecting the duties, as such persons, hearing of my arrival, would know how easily Mr. Verge could, in case of need, call in my assistance, to seize the timber on which the duty had not been paid.

I also met the principal inhabitants of the place, and heard with pleasure that the fishery just concluded in the Bay of Traguidigache had been generally good, and that all was quiet on the coast.

In the afternoon we weighed anchor, and arrived at Paspebiac in the evening of the 25th.

In the morning of the 26th, the carpenters commenced their work of putting in a new bowsprit. Mr. Lebrun also had a new jib-boom made, while the chief mate prepared the necessary ropes for the rigging of the two spars.

The work was pushed on, with the hope that I might reach Fox River with the schooner on the 1st June. I found occupation in visiting the different fishing establishments in the place, and in seeing the fishermen, in order to obtain all important information relative to the fisheries.

As I have stated in my former reports, the most important houses in the fish trade, those of Robin and Co., and of LeBoutillier and Brothers, are at Paspebiac.

The house of Robin and Co., have also a fishing establishment at Grand River, and another at the creek S.W. from Percé, besides others on the coasts of New Brunswick and the island of Cape Breton.

The house of LeBoutillier and Brothers own an establishment on the island of Bonaventure, opposite Percé, and others at Wood Island and Forteau, in the Straits of Belleisle. The last named is not in Canada. The business done by these two houses is considerable, amounting probably to \$200,000; that of Le Boutillier and Brothers to \$150,000. The men in their employ are numbered by

hundreds. Each establishment is composed of half a score large buildings, timber built, and in good order, serving to store goods, cordage, fishing tackle, provisions and cured fish, the last mentioned article awaiting shipment to a foreign market.

Nothing can exceed the order, cleanliness, and economy prevailing in these establishments. The different clerks employed in the fish trade, are accordingly required to serve an apprenticeship of several years. Every chief agent has had charge for a long time of some small establishment, in which he must have given proofs of activity and capacity; and all the chief clerks must, in a subordinate office, have acquired a correct judgment of the value of goods and of the quality of fish. They must likewise be skilled in all the several processes used in preparing the cod-fish for market.

The masters of vessels are both fishermen and captains of traders on their voyages. In the summer, while their ships are awaiting their cargoes, they command squads of the men on shore, who are engaged in preparing the fish. These remarks on the trading houses of Paspébiac are generally applicable to all the fishing establishments on the coast of Canada. The latter are however, except those of Mr. John LeBoutillier, on a much smaller scale.

I stated in my last year's report the direction in which the fish cured at Paspébiac is exported. It is therefore unnecessary to enlarge on that subject at present, but at the close of this report I shall append a statement of the quantity of fish exported from Paspébiac and from the whole coast of the bay of Chaleurs as compared with what was exported last year.

On 28th May, Mr. LeBrun, the master-carpenter, informed me that he could not complete the repairs of "La Canadienne" in time to enable me to proceed in her to Fox River by 1st June.

I then resolved to set out for that place in my boat with six of my best seamen, hoping for favorable weather and a fair wind, so as to be able to arrive on or before 1st June; but we had scarcely embarked when it began to rain. On the following days, strong contrary winds retarded our progress. However, thanks to the good will and strong arms of my six oarsmen, I arrived at Gaspé Basin on 31st May in the evening, having made 95 miles, nearly all along a dangerous coast.

The next day, I crossed the bay and landed at Penouille, from whence having laid up my boat in safety, I set out with my men and reached l'Anse aux Griffons on the St. Lawrence in three hours, travelling over the new road made by Mr. John LeBoutillier for the government.

Had it not been for this road, which is most useful, as opening a communication between the settlements below, from *le Grand Etang* to *Cap des Rosiers* and Gaspé Basin, the only good harbour on all the south shore, and also the central point, at which are the custom house and very important trading establishments, I should have been obliged to double Gaspé Cape at sea, which would have lengthened my journey by thirty miles. Even to do that, I must have had a calm or a land-wind, as, with the Cape on my lee, I never could have doubled the Cape, on account of the heavy surf there. From l'Anse aux Griffons, I proceeded in a whale boat to Fox River, where I arrived on 1st June at 5 p.m.

I announced my arrival to the mayor of the municipality. Mr. Lavergne and the council met, and held their meeting during half an hour without the least interruption or hostile demonstration against any of the councillors.

Mr. Lavergne next made a requisition on me for armed assistance to execute a warrant issued against one Francœur, on whom one had been previously served without effect, the defendant having, with the aid of some other persons, openly resisted the bailiff, and even ill-treated him.

I sent one of my sailors armed, with the constable of the place, who had charge to execute the warrant, and now Mr. Francœur did not offer to make the least resistance, and was brought before the mayor. The trial proceeded, and the defendant was condemned to pay a fine of five pounds, or in default of payment to fifteen days' imprisonment.

There were thirty persons present in the justice-room, but the good order of the court was not interrupted for one instant. That same evening Mr. Francœur paid the Clerk of the Court the fine.

I had afterwards the pleasure of meeting several of the principal inhabitants of the place, who informed me that they were very glad of the result of my visit to Fox River, and that they hoped it would have the effect of preventing the recurrence of such disorders as that which had taken place.

In taking leave of Mr. Lavergne, and the other notables of the place, I told them that I should make them several visits, during the season, with "La Canadienne," and that in case of any disturbance occurring at Fox River or the neighbouring villages, they had only to give me notice, and I would proceed at once to the place where my presence might be required.

The next day I went to Gaspé Basin, which place I left on the 3rd. I put in at la Grande Grève, at Point St. Pierre, at Percé, and at all the intermediate stations, and arrived at Paspébiac in the evening of the 5th.

I found the repairs on board well advanced, and was told that I might hope to set sail on the next day. Thus, while the schooner was, of necessity, detained in port, I travelled 120 miles along the coast, and accomplished a mission which, from its results, may be called important.

The disorderly and agitated state of the Village of Fox River, previous to my visit, and the want of an armed force for their protection, are shewn by the letter which M. Lavergne and the other councillors addressed to me. I am fortunate in being able to show, that my presence in the place was the means of restoring order and tranquillity for the remainder of the season, and that in my subsequent visits the authorities had nothing to complain of.

It may be thought that I exaggerate the effect of my visit to Fox River a little; but persons who have had opportunities of seeing riots in country places, know the impression which the presence of a few disciplined men produce on a crowd, when they are resolute and acting under authority. Moreover, the parties who might have been disposed to offer resistance to the law were well aware that I might come back in a few days with "La Canadienne," and that their resistance would not be possible.

During this journey I visited, as I observed above, all the fishing stations on the coast from Paspébiac to Fox River: Port Daniel, Pabos, Grand River, L'Anse du Cap, L'Anse au Bean Fils, Percé, Point St. Pierre, Gaspé Basin and L'Anse aux Griffons.

I saw the proprietors of the principal fishing establishments, and a great many of the fishermen on that coast of the Gulf.

The cod-fishing which was just commencing, promised generally to be successful.

At Point St. Pierre, the boats had taken from eight or ten quintals of fish daily. Bait was plentiful.

In several of the villages, the fishermen were preparing to start for the north shore cod-fishery, at Natashquan, Magpie Bay, Shelldrake, the Seven Islands, and other places of minor importance, where the cod is more plentiful than on the south shore.

But if the fish is more easily taken in those waters, the fishermen are, on the other hand, obliged to incur greater expense in their outfit, in order to carry on

their fishing operations, than when they practise their calling on the coast before their own doors. Still, when they have the means of procuring a suitable outfit it is certainly more advantageous for a certain number to go to the north shore, as it is comparatively but little frequented.

On the 7th we left the roadstead of Paspebiac, and on the morning of the 9th came to anchor in the Bay of Plaisance, opposite to Amherst Island.

The mackerel fishery had commenced, in the Bay of Plaisance, on 1st June, a week earlier than usual; but the fish had not yet appeared in great numbers.

Twenty-five schooners were in Amherst Harbour, twenty of which were engaged in the mackerel fishery. The number of vessels so engaged last year was about sixty. This was a considerable falling off, but the fishery had been so unproductive, in 1856, that most of the masters of vessels, which usually resorted to the Magdalen Islands, had preferred going at once to the coast of Labrador, to engage in the cod-fishery, rather than attempting the mackerel fishery in the Bay of Plaisance. I tendered my services to the members of the municipality, to enforce the by-laws of the fishery. These were in general well enough observed, with the exception of that which prohibited the laying of nets in certain parts of the bay, and that because the By-law was not very clear in that particular.

On 16th June, almost all the foreign fishermen had taken up their nets; our own were preparing to do the same, for the fish did not appear in the bay in large quantities. As my presence was not so much required at Amherst, I proceeded to visit Grosse Isle, Isle Bryon, and Grosse Isle aux Oiseaux.

Grosse Isle, the northern point of which forms the north cape of the Magdalen group, is inhabited by people of English origin, engaged in agriculture, and occasionally in fishing. South of this island, is the Grand Entry, forming a thoroughly sheltered harbor, capable of containing from one hundred to two hundred vessels drawing no more than ten feet water. Unfortunately it is difficult of access; and its distance from Amherst Island, and the Island at House Harbor, where the principal business of the Island is transacted, prevents it from being much frequented.

Opposite the Grand Entry, on the south, and near to North Cape in Grosse Isle, there is excellent ground for cod-fishing. Bryon Island, which is four miles long and one wide, is at present inhabited by only three families. The soil is good, and easy to cultivate, but the shores are difficult to land on.

There is not, in its whole circumference, a creek or bay sheltered from all winds. Fishing schooners do, however, anchor there frequently in summer, in four or five fathoms water, taking care to get under the lee of the Island.

The banks around Isle Bryon are an excellent fishing ground for cod. On visiting the Island, I found fifteen schooners belonging to Arichat and Cheticoup engaged in the cod fishery. The fish is usually abundant there, but the fishermen told me that this year the fishery was less productive than in former years, on account of the scarcity of bait.

On landing at Isle Bryon, having been informed by Mr. White that some fishermen, whose vessels lay near the Island, had robbed him of some pieces of iron and other articles, I took with me a person named Paul Chenel, who was able to identify the stolen articles, and went on board every schooner in sight; but, notwithstanding the most careful search, could discover nothing to make known the thief or thieves. We heard, however, that a schooner, which had been engaged in fishing near Isle Bryon, had sailed for Cheticoup two days before with only half a cargo, and that the Captain was strongly suspected of having committed the thefts complained of.

As my course lay near the Bird Islands, I availed myself of the opportunity to visit, with Admiral Coffin and his son, the largest of them, on which I believe the Government intend to build a light-house. There is no landing, except on the south side, where it can be approached in a dead calm. It is about 140 feet in

height, 233 paces in length, and 150 in breadth. It is very difficult to ascend, and still more difficult to descend, on account of its steepness.

It is very certain that a light-house on this island would be of the greatest use to ships frequenting the Gulf of St. Lawrence, particularly to those coming in on the voyage to Quebec, on the coast of Gaspé, or in the Bay of Chaleurs. Near the light-house there should also be a gun of heavy calibre, to be fired in foggy weather every half hour, to warn ships of the dangerous neighbourhood. The light-house to be built on Great Bird Island needs not, in Admiral Coffin's opinion, be carried higher than 25 feet.

On the 20th, I returned to Amherst harbor, where I heard that in my absence the captain of a schooner from the Gut of Canso had committed an assault and battery on the person of Mr. Alexander Connor; that a warrant had been issued, but that the defendant could not be brought into court to answer the charge. Mr. A. Painchaud, who had received Mr. Connor's complaint, informed me that the constable charged with the execution of the warrant not having been able to secure a sufficient force, had not ventured to effect the arrest of the defendant, as he apprehended resistance. That the accused party, having heard of my arrival at Amherst harbor, had gone off in the night to Entry Island. I immediately took the warrant and gave orders to make sail. We coasted round Entry Island, but there was no vessel. We saw a schooner to leeward of us bearing south, which the pilot said he took to be the vessel of the captain we were in pursuit of. We set all sail, but unfortunately found, after a chase of several hours, that it was a fishing vessel belonging to the Magdalen Islands. Finding that it was useless to go further, I gave orders to return to Amherst harbor, where we arrived on the following day, the 21st.

On the 22nd, having visited the harbor, and seen that all was in good order, I gave orders to make sail for the coast of Labrador. At 11 a. m. the anchor was apeak, and we left the bay of Plaisance with a fair breeze from the S.W. On the 23rd and 24th the wind shifted to the S., and on the 25th, in the evening, having run down the western coast of Newfoundland, the mountains of which were still covered with snow, we came to an anchor in l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons.

On the 26th we shifted our berth to the upper part of the bay, and I proceeded to visit the fishing establishments there.

Mr. Martin Parent had planted his sealing nets very early in the spring, as the Straits of Belleisle were free from ice at an unusual period. He had already caught 200 seals, the blubber of which yields a fine oil, and their skin sells for from \$4 to \$8.

The cod had appeared in scanty numbers near the coast a month before my arrival (unusually early), but the capelan and louçon, two small kinds of fish preyed on by the cod, and used by the fishermen for baiting their lines, were very scarce. The fishermen could procure them only in small quantities, and that only by undertaking long coasting voyages, frequently without success. Accordingly they had been able to visit the fishing grounds only four or five times, from the commencement of the season.

At the establishment of Messrs. Le Boutillier and Brothers, on l'Isle à Bois, no more than 250 quintals of cod had been taken; at Mr. De Guittville's only 300; and at Mr. Le Brocq's, 150. But the season had not yet come when the codfish resorts in large quantities to the shores of the Straits of Belleisle.

There were as yet only nine vessels at l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons.

It was told that the preceding winter had been very mild on the coast of Labrador; and that none of those heavy snow-storms had occurred, which compel the people of those inclement climates to keep within doors during several successive days.

The Straits of Belleisle had been so little obstructed with the ice, that vessels might have passed through at the beginning of March. This was very different

from the year before, when the navigation of the Straits was not free before the middle of June.

According to information which I obtained from the oldest inhabitants of the place, the Straits of Belleisle are never accessible during the winter season to the ordinary vessels used in commerce.

Vessels from Newfoundland, fitted out expressly for the seal-fishing, are alone able to penetrate during the month of March, to capture these animals on the floating ice.

It is generally not until the month of June, that European vessels are able to pass without an accident. But from the month of June till the month of December, inclusive, the passage is open. A few pieces of ice, either floating or are fixed, sometimes met with, but they are of inconsiderable size and may be easily avoided by taking care.

And if, besides the light-houses already erected and those which it is proposed by the Government to erect on the coast of Newfoundland, guns of large calibre were placed on Green Island and on some other equally dangerous points on the coast, to be fired every quarter of an hour or every half hour, during the thick fogs which are so frequent in these latitudes, from their invariably accompanying the south-east, south, and sometimes the south-west winds, ships passing through these straits would have nothing to fear.

I would insist on having cannon used near the light-houses, because, when the weather is foggy, the lights of the latter cannot be seen, even at the distance of a few acres. It is only when the atmosphere is free from mist, that their light can be seen in such a manner as to be of service to the navigator.

On the 27th June, we anchored in Bradore Harbor.

The seal-fishery had begun there at the same time as at L'Anse aux Blancs Sablons.

Mr. Randall Jones, in his expeditions, had already captured 450 of these animals, of which 97 were taken in a single day.

On the day of my arrival there were 20 schooners in Bradore Harbor, and others were arriving every day.

On the 4th of July, when I made a general visit to Bradore Bay, there were—

- 5 Fishing schooners from the Magdalen Islands.
- 10 do do from Prince Edward's Island.
- 11 do do from Nova Scotia.
- 6 do do from the United States.
- 1 Brigantine from Nova Scotia.
- 1 do from the United States.

Cod had appeared in Bradore Bay about the same time as on the coast opposite L'Anse aux Blancs Sablons, and the capelan was very scarce.

The crews of the vessels anchored in the Bay generally took the cod with a line; some, however, used nets, two or three of which were really codfish seines, and the others mackerel or herring seines.

The inhabitants residing there permanently complained of these latter being used; for they say that these seines with small meshes cause a useless destruction of fish, since a great quantity of the cod taken in them is too small to be cured, and is consequently lost; whilst with the true codfish seines, which have meshes proportioned to the size of the fish to be taken, the cod which is fit for the market is alone taken, the small escaping through the large meshes in the bunt of the net.

I would therefore suggest that a clause should be added to the fishery Act, to regulate the taking of fish in nets on the Canadian coast.

I passed the time which I spent in Bradore Bay, that is ten days, in visiting the fishing grounds of that place, and I made it my duty to afford to the per-

sons permanently engaged in the seal fishery there, the protection which they have long called for.

I prevented foreigners, and even our own fishermen, from disturbing them in their operations, and from unnecessarily going with their vessels to the entrance or into the middle of their fishing grounds, and frightening away the flocks of seals which were on their way to the interior of the nets laid for them.

Mr. Jones' sons were enabled to carry on their employment without any molestation, and, when I left Bradore, they told me they were satisfied that the presence of "La Canadienne" in Bradore Bay had enabled them to capture over 200 seals more than they would have done, if foreign fishermen had been permitted to disturb them as in previous years.

The same may be said of other proprietors of seal-fishing grounds on the coast of Labrador, who have also recognised the efficacy of the service to which "La Canadienne" is devoted.

Whilst the sloop was anchored in Bradore Bay, I one day took advantage of the fine weather to make an excursion into the interior of the country. I landed at the head of the Bay, and directed my steps towards the largest of the three mountains, called the Paps of Labrador, situated about ten miles from the coast.

It was with great difficulty that I got even so far as that.

The country is completely cut up by ravines, small lakes, brooks and marshes, which make the route extremely difficult, if not quite impassable in summer.

It is only during the winter that the inhabitants of the coast are able to go into the interior, which they do on snow shoes or in sleighs, to which are harnessed five or six powerful dogs, known as Esquimaux dogs, to hunt cariboo and ptarmigan, which are usually found there in great numbers.

The part of Labrador which I saw is quite unfit for agriculture, and I am assured that the rest of the country is similar to the parts which I visited.

It is nothing but a succession of ranges of living rock and sandy plains covered with a little of different kinds of moss and lichens. In the bottom of the ravines alone can we find any vegetable soil, and there in so thin a layer, that the stunted pines and dwarf white birch can hardly take root in it.

Near the rivers we find fir, white birch, and a few tamarack trees of a certain size, but everywhere else there is nothing but the living rock covered with moss. There is neither tree nor shrub. I know of no place which has so desolate an appearance.

On the 5th July, the wind being favorable, I gave orders to start for the western part of the coast of Labrador.

A thick fog prevented me from visiting Salmon Bay, and the harbour of Good Hope, where I was told there were a dozen vessels engaged in fishing for cod.

On the 7th, I landed in the Bay of Kegashka, where seven families of fishermen have settled, and on the 8th I visited the harbour of little Natashquan, where there were twenty-four sloops at anchor, of which nine were from the coast of Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands.

A fortnight previous to my arrival, there had been as many as thirty-five fishing smacks at Natashquan.

The cod had begun to appear in these grounds about 1st June. It was abundant. The vessels had already on board each from 230 to 450 quintals of cod. An American vessel of 110 tons had 660 quintals on board.

The fishing was excellent; not so good as the preceding year, but better than ordinary.

There are at present thirteen families permanently settled on the coast near the harbour. They are engaged in the cod, and also in the seal fishery, which has been very profitable to many of them this year.

Mr. Hypolite Vignault, one of the inhabitants residing at Natashquan, left the harbour on the 22nd April, in his sloop of about 50 tons burden, with a crew of seven men; and the same day, within sight of Natashquan point, he captured 120 seals. On the following days he succeeded in penetrating to the centre of the field ice, and took 480 more. He returned to port at the end of a week, the produce of his fishing being worth five or six hundred pounds.

At the same time a brigantine of 120 tons, which came from St. John, Newfoundland, through the Straits of Belleisle, obtained, only a few miles from Mr. Vignault, but in a more favorable place, nearly three thousand of these animals. This vessel was better equipped than the Canadian one, and carried a crew of thirty men.

A voyage so protracted and full of danger as that made by this vessel from Newfoundland shows well what a spirit of enterprise animates the traders and outfitters of that island, especially those of St. John, from which port they send out every year nearly 300 vessels to fish for seals in the Atlantic, the Straits of Belleisle, and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence as far as our coast.

It is greatly to be wished that our outfitters would take into consideration the working of this source of riches, which, it is true, fails sometimes, but more frequently yields enormous profits, as I showed in my report of last year. Our vessels on the coast of Gaspé, which lie idle during the winter, would be very fit for these expeditions. It would however be necessary to guard the outside with plates of iron at the water line, to prevent their being cut through by the ice. I hope these remarks will have the effect of drawing the attention of our shipowners to the profits they might realise, if following the example of the outfitters of Newfoundland they devoted themselves in a proper manner to seal-hunting on the floating ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Before leaving Natashquan, I took care to ascertain that the fishery laws were observed, especially that part which forbids the throwing of the offal of fish and other filth into the water near the fishing grounds.

I was told that some time previous, several fishermen had been guilty of disregarding this clause of the Fishery Act, which is intended to preserve the fishing grounds; but being warned that I should shortly arrive they had ceased from this practice, so injurious to the fisheries.

But none of these fishermen were there, for had they been, I should have instituted proceedings against them.

On the 9th, in the morning, I arrived at the port of Mingan, where I remained until the 13th.

The crew were engaged in taking in a supply of water and wood.

There were at Mingan nearly 100 families of Indians of the Montagnais tribe, who had encamped near the trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company. They were occupied at the time in attending the religious exercises of a mission composed of the Reverend Jesuit Fathers M. Arnault and M. Babel, and intended subsequently to prepare themselves to set out for the interior to hunt and fish.

These Indians had not been fortunate in their hunting last year. Very few of them, I was told, brought back furs enough to repay the advances made to them by the Hudson Bay Company.

But it was not only the Mingan Indians who had suffered from the scarcity of animals yielding furs on the coast of Labrador; those of Natashquan had done no better, and all the inhabitants residing on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, from the Seven Islands to L'Anse aux Blancs Sablons who are engaged in hunting the fur-bearing animals, had not realised a fifth part of the profits of the previous year. Foxes especially, of which a great number had been taken in the winter of 1855-56, had been extremely scarce.

On the 13th I visited the River St. John.

The salmon fishery was over at the mouth of the river. There remained but one person fishing at the foot of the rapids.

The fish had not been abundant.

The salmon had begun to ascend the River St. John about the 1st of June.

The following is the number and position of the fishing grounds on the River St. John.

On the Eastern Bank.

1st Fishing Ground.—Situated about four acres from the eastern point of the mouth of the river, and belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company.

2nd Fishing Ground.—Situated about four acres higher than the preceding, and belonging to James McLeod.

3rd Fishing Ground.—Situated four miles higher, and belonging to John Ross.

4th Fishing Ground.—Situated nine miles from the mouth of the river, and belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company.

5th Fishing Ground.—Situated at the foot of the rapids, eighteen miles beyond the preceding, and also belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company.

On the Western Bank.

1st Fishing Ground.—Situated at the western point of the mouth of the river, and occupied by Girard Brothers, of Malbaie.

2nd Fishing Ground.—Situated some acres from the preceding, and belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company.

3rd Fishing Ground.—Situated six acres from the western point, and belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company.

I was unable to obtain the exact amount produced by all these fisheries. However, according to Mr. James McLeod, who had fished there himself, not more than 100 barrels of salmon are taken, both in the grounds worked by the Hudson's Bay Company and in the others.

Up to that time no one had violated any clause of the Fishery Act, relative to the protection of salmon.

Before leaving the River St. John, I gave one of the fishermen there a copy of the Fishery Act, and recommended them to observe it strictly, as on that depends the preservation of salmon and many other descriptions of equally important fish, in our rivers and upon our coasts.

That night I went on board an American schooner fishing on a shoal outside Magpie Bay, and showed the captain the Fishery Act. I pointed out to him the clause forbidding, under a heavy penalty, the throwing of offal into the fishing grounds.

Thereupon he told me that it was unnecessary to forbid him to do that, for having fished for several years on the banks of Newfoundland, and being well aware of the pernicious effect resulting from the habit of befouling the fishing grounds, he was accustomed to keep the cod offal on his deck until he could go and deposit it at a distance from the fishing banks, in a place where it could do no injury.

Indeed, I saw in a box made for the purpose, on his deck, the offal and heads of cod fish, evidently the product of several days' fishing.

It is greatly to be wished that all fishermen understood, as well as the one of whom I have just spoken, the importance of conforming to a law, intended for the preservation of a source of wealth yielding the means of subsistence to millions of families; for notwithstanding all my efforts, and those of

several magistrates and owners of fishing-grounds, there are to be found, even among our own fishermen, unscrupulous men who find opportunities of breaking the law without being discovered.

I then gave orders to steer for the south shore of the St. Lawrence, and on the 15th, landed at Grand Etang, where Mr. Lesperance gave me the following information concerning the fisheries carried on at that part of the coast of Gaspé.

The cod had appeared at the usual season, that is to say, about the middle of May.

The capelan, the bait most attractive to the cod, had not yet approached the coast in great abundance with the exception of one day. The fishermen had up to that time used herring to bait their lines, but they could not obtain these latter fish in sufficient quantity.

The fishing smack which had succeeded best had taken 70 quintals of cod, the others 25 to 50 each.

Mr. Lesperance this year employed 18 vessels, and 40 men.

Last year he exported, on his own account, to the markets of Spain and Italy, more than 3000 quintals of dried cod, which sold extremely well.

All was quiet on the coast.

No foreign fishing vessels had yet made their appearance.

On the 16th, I visited the settlements of Great Fox River and L'Anse aux Griffons.

The cod at these two places was in fair quantity but the bait was very scarce.

Public order had not been disturbed at Fox River, since my last visit on the 1st June.

On the morning of the 17th, we anchored in Gaspé basin.

At this anchorage, there were only five vessels, of which two were European brigantines, laden with salt, merchandise, and fishing tackle, and three schooners belonging to Gaspé outfitters.

Mr. Belleau, Collector of Customs of the Port of Gaspé, to whom I offered my services, in case he should require assistance in the execution of his duty, either to transport him to any part of the coast where his presence might be required, or to aid his coast guard in seizing articles fraudulently introduced into the country, informed me that the fishing was about the ordinary average in the bay of Gaspé. The fish was tolerably plentiful, but the bait was very scarce.

No foreign vessels had yet appeared in the port of Gaspé.

I weighed anchor on the morning of the 20th, and in the afternoon landed at Point St. Pierre. There, as at all other points along the coast which I had just visited, the produce of the cod fishery was not very great, on account of the difficulty of procuring bait. But the season was not yet very far advanced, and there were hopes that it would improve as it advanced.

Messrs. Collas and Fauvel, both proprietors of fishing establishments, told me that all was in perfect order at Point St. Pierre, and also at Malbaie.

In the evening I went to Percé.

At Percé, and especially at the Island of Bonaventure, the fishing was a little more favorable than at any of the stations which I have visited since leaving the northern shore; but it was far from yielding the same favorable results as last year, when at the same date, the vessels had taken a-third more fish. This was owing, as everywhere else, to the scarcity of bait.

At Beaufils Cove and Cape Cove, the fishing had not been more productive.

However, I was told that, for some days past, the vessels which had gone to the bank had had some good fishing.

Mackerel had begun to appear outside of Bonaventure Island.

Foreign vessels had begun to arrive.

On the 21st, at 5 p. m., we took our departure. At 7 p. m. we landed at Grande Rivière.

The same remarks which I made concerning the cod fishery at Percé, in the Bay of Gaspé and elsewhere, are applicable to this part of the coast, where the bait is likewise very scarce.

The Rev. Mr. Desjardins, Curé of the parish of Grande Rivière, told me that as Chairman of the School Commissioners of that District, he thought he should have need of my assistance to carry out the law, as many persons had shown an intention to resist it.

I made answer to Mr. Desjardins at once, that I should be ready to go to Grande Rivière, whenever my presence might be required.

I returned on board at 9 p. m.

The wind, which was east, increased during the night, until it blew a perfect gale. The sea was too high for me to think of landing at Paspébiac. I gave orders for continuing our course further within the Bay of Chaleurs, and on the next day, the 22nd, we anchored in the Roadstead at Carleton.

I had the pleasure of meeting the principal inhabitants of this place. I satisfied myself that my presence for a longer time was unnecessary, and then left for the River Ristigouche.

At 2 p. m., I landed at the Mission.

There Mr. Fraser, the Collector of Customs at New Carlisle, and Mr. Busted, Justice of the Peace, were expecting my arrival. They requested me to go with sufficient force to the Court House at Cross Point, to give assistance to the local magistrates, who were assembled there, to decide two cases which caused much excitement among the inhabitants of that part of the County of Bonaventure.

Nearly sixty persons were present at the deliberations of the Court; and there was great apprehension of serious disturbance, if judgment was given against the individual sued. The latter and several of his friends, I was told, declared that they would not submit to the decision of the Court, should it be unfavorable to them.

Under these circumstances I considered it my duty to assure the sitting magistrates of my active co-operation; and I placed at their disposal all the constabulary force under my command.

I informed the crowd that I should remain in the Ristigouche River, until the cases in question were decided upon, and the judgment of the Court had been carried out according to law.

The Magistrates continued sitting until night, when, not having come to any decision, the Court was adjourned until the next day.

On the 23rd the Court sat a part of the day, and in the afternoon judgment was rendered in favor of the prosecutor, Mr. Fraser, who had acted in these cases in his official capacity, as Inspector of the public revenue.

According to Mr. Fraser and several magistrates at Cross Point, my arrival at the Mission had been most opportune, for without the presence of "La Canadienne" in the neighborhood of the place where the Court was sitting, there would probably have been some disturbance, and attempts would have been made by intimidating the Justices of the Peace, to prevent them giving judgment as they did.

Several most respectable inhabitants of New Brunswick, amongst whom were a member of parliament and a Justice of the Peace, whom I had the pleasure of receiving on board, expressed their satisfaction at the happy results which had followed my visit among them. For if disturbances had occurred at Cross Point or at any other place on the bank of the river, they would not have failed to spread to the population of the other shore, which is only separated from that of Canada by a few acres.

The salmon fishery in the river Ristigouche had been over for a week.

On the Canadian, as well as the New Brunswick side, it had not been very productive. At many of the fishery stations but one-seventh of the yield of last year had been taken, and in others one-fifth.

In another part of this Report I shall give a statement of the stations for salmon fishing on the Canadian bank of the Ristigouche river, with the amount of fish taken this year.

On the 26th, the wind, which had hitherto continued east and had consequently prevented us from descending the river (for at this point the river is too narrow to permit of tacking), turned to the west, and the anchor was weighed in the afternoon.

Opposite Battery Point we encountered three ships at anchor, loading with pine plank from the saw mill built last year on the Canadian bank by Messrs. Travers and Company.

On the morning of the 27th I landed at Carleton, where I saw the Crown Timber agent, who told me that the persons upon whom he had claims for cutting wood on the Crown Lands had paid, and that he was therefore not in need of my services.

As the wind continued favorable for leaving the Bay, I went on board at 8 a.m., and reached New Carlisle at 5 p.m.

I saw the public officers of this place, and satisfied myself that all was quiet.

On the 28th I visited Paspébiac, when I was told that there, as everywhere on the coast of Gaspé, the cod-fishing had not been very good, on account of the scarcity of bait.

There were in the road seven ships, belonging to two commercial houses, C. Robin & Co. and LeBoutillier and Brother.

I was informed that on the 22nd, eighteen United States schooners, engaged in the cod fishery on the Miseau bank, had come for shelter to the Paspébiac road, during the storm which raged in the night of the 21st and 22nd. They had on board several fishermen from the shores of New Brunswick whom they had picked up from their bonts, already half filled with water and ready to sink.

The captains of the vessels reported that this storm had been one of the most violent ever experienced in those latitudes. The sea ran so high near the coast that a great number of vessels, returning from the banks, had been swamped in attempting to make the land. It was calculated that nearly sixty fishermen of Caraquette, Shippagan, Trocadie, and Poemouche had perished.

On our coast, several vessels had been lost, but we had to deplore the loss of but one fisherman.

Towards night we weighed anchor and shaped our course for Percé, where we arrived next day at 6 a.m. There the storm had done no damage.

The cod fishing had not much improved. The wind continuing to blow from the west, we left for the Magdalen Islands. South of Bonaventure Island, we fell in with two American schooners; they were engaged with some success in mackerel fishing; and to the south of Amherst Island, we met fifteen other schooners belonging to the same nation, similarly engaged, but with little success.

We anchored in the bay of Plaisance during the night of the 30th.

There were only five schooners in the harbor of Amherst.

The cod fishing at the Basin and at *l'Etang du Nord* was most successful. The fishermen belonging to the island had commenced taking mackerel with the line in the bay of Plaisance; some of them took as many as three hundred per day.

On 1st August, I received the following letter from Mr. Fox, the collector at the port of Amherst:

"Custom House, Amherst, 1st August, 1857.

"SIR,—I have received information that an American vessel has unlawfully landed goods on this coast and that she is at present at the Etang du Nord, I request that you will assist me with "La Canadienne" and the force under your command in seizing the said vessel and bringing the offender to justice, as the state of the weather just now would not admit of going there in a boat.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Yours, &c.,

P. Fortin, Esquire,
Gov. Sch. "La Canadienne."

JOHN J. FOX.

I immediately placed "La Canadienne" and my men at Mr. Fox's disposal. We weighed anchor and made sail for the Etang du Nord, having on board the Custom House officer of the port, Mr. McCormick, in place of Mr. Fox, who was detained at his office by press of business. At 4 p.m. we anchored in the Etang du Nord.

I at once put Mr. McCormick on board the United States schooner suspected of smuggling, and I received the register and other papers of the vessel, in order to hand them to Mr. Fox in compliance with that gentleman's request.

Mr. McCormick took charge of the vessel in order to take her to Amherst; the master, whose name is Kelly, had landed goods, but he stated that in doing so he was ignorant of the laws of the country, and that he was perfectly willing to submit to them in all things.

In rounding the western point, we fell in with nineteen schooners at anchor under Amherst Island: nine belonging to the United States, the rest to Nova Scotia. Off the Etang du Nord we counted forty-one others, more than one half Americans; the remainder were from the Gut of Canso and Cape Breton.

Two-thirds of the vessels were engaged in the mackerel fishery, and the remainder in the cod fishery, which was not very good on the banks outside.

The mackerel fishery had not been carried on with much success by the majority of the vessels engaged in it. As a general rule, it was not so good as last year. The foreign fishermen had done nothing of which the inhabitants of this part of the coast of the Magdalen Islands could complain.

On the morning of the 3rd of August, I entered Amherst harbour and delivered the papers belonging to Kelly's vessel to Mr. Fox, who was highly pleased with the manner in which Mr. McCormick's instructions had been carried out.

On the 4th I, visited House Harbor, which I found nearly deserted, all the vessels belonging to the port being engaged in the mackerel fishery on the Labrador coast.

The fishermen belonging to the Grindstone and Allright Islands carry on the mackerel fishery in the Bay of Plaisance, near House Harbor, with some success. The fish are, however, small, and can be sold only as No. 2.

On the 5th August, finding on enquiry that Kelly the trader, had gone to Amherst and submitted to the collector's orders, I ordered sail to be made. We passed to the eastward of the Magdalen Islands.

Between Allright and Entry Islands we fell in with a fleet of forty American schooners engaged in the mackerel fishery. The fish did not appear to be very abundant. North of Grosse Isle we met 20 more vessels of the same nation, and equipped for the same fishery.

Several of those vessels were exceedingly beautiful, being built on entirely new models with the best possible material, and seemed to be very fast sailers. Some of them were nearly one hundred tons burden, and carried from fifteen to eighteen men.

The expenses connected with fitting out vessels for the mackerel fishery and maintaining them are very great, and great activity and perseverance are required on the part of the crew, in order to render the expedition profitable to the owners.

In the afternoon of the 7th, we anchored in the roadway of Percé. We had head winds during the passage.

The fishing on this coast had begun to improve; the boats brought in from three to six quintals of codfish each evening.

There were no foreign vessels in the roadstead nor in the vicinity.

On the 8th, I sailed in order to visit the fishing stations on the south shore of the St. Lawrence. In the afternoon of the same day, I landed at l'Anse aux Griffons on Fox River.

A gale from the northwest obliged us to come to an anchor at l'Anse aux Griffons on the morning of the 9th. We sailed on the following day.

On the 11th, I visited the establishment at Grand Etang; and on the 11th I proceeded to Grande Vallée, at which place there are some highly important fishing establishments, of which I here give a list with the number of boats employed by each:—

1.	Fishing station of Germain Dionne.....	6 boats.
2.	“ “ Messie Fournier.....	2 “
3.	“ “ François Joncas.....	8 “
4.	“ “ Thomas Couture.....	3 “
5.	“ “ Joseph Fournier.....	3 “
6.	“ “ Fabien Bonneau.....	2 “
7.	“ “ Charles Clavet.....	4 “
8.	“ “ Widow Etienne Fournier.....	2 “
9.	“ “ J. B. Caron.....	1 “
10.	“ “ Pierre Mainville.....	1 “

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32 “

Besides the above, there are two boats belonging to resident families.

I was informed that the Grande Vallée boats bring in from 100 to 160 quintals of codfish every year besides herring, mackerel, and a few barrels of halibut.

The resident inhabitants, numbering about forty persons, are to some extent engaged in agriculture.

The soil at Grande Vallée is not very rich, but can easily be improved, as large quantities of sea weed, which makes an excellent manure, can be had.

L'Anse de la Grande Vallée, where the fishing establishments are, is about three-fourths of a mile in width, and is situated in the seigniory of the same name, which belongs to Colonel McCumming, of England.

The Grande Vallée fishermen sell their dry cod fish to the Gaspé merchants, by whom it is sent to the European markets. The green fish is sent to Quebec and Montreal.

On the same day I proceeded to the Magdalen River which falls into the St. Lawrence, about 10 miles above Grande Vallée.

There are fourteen families settled on the banks of this river, who own four fishing establishments and twelve boats.

Magdalen River is said to be a good fishing station. There is almost always an abundance of fish. However, there have been a few complaints this year about the scarcity of cod-fish.

Herring and mackerel are found on this part of the coast.

The Americans were in the habit of going there in large numbers a few years ago, to fish for mackerel with seines and with the line; but for the last two years they must have found better fishing elsewhere, as they have not appeared on the Magdalen coast.

Only one American vessel, the “Gazelle,” Captain Baker, went there this year. I visited her in order to see that she had no goods on board.

There are some excellent lands on the banks of the Magdalen river, and the inhabitants carry on farming with some success. They carry their grain to be ground at Mont Louis, situated six leagues higher up, where there is a good mill.

On the 13th, I reached Mont Louis Bay; it is about two miles wide and one deep. A river flows in at the foot of this magnificent bay, and at high tide there are ten feet of water on the sand bar at its entrance. Above the bar, even at low water, the river is deep enough to float a vessel drawing twelve feet of water.

There are twenty-four families at Mont Louis; they support themselves nearly

altogether by fishing and farming, but there are only three families devoted exclusively to the latter.

In this place there are seven cod-fishing establishments, and I here give the names of the proprietors together with the number of boats and men employed in each.

Proprietors.	Number of boats.	Number of fishermen employed.
1. Jos. Th. Fournier.....	5	14
2. Jacques Gadbout.....	2	6
3. Louis Laflamme.....	2	6
4. Michel Laflamme, père.....	2	6
5. Michel Laflamme, fils.....	3	10
6. Michel Poitras.....	2	6
7. Charles Lenieux.....	1	3
	19	51

In addition to the above, there are six more boats belonging to farmers, who go fishing after sowing time.

These boats take each on an average 120 quintals of cod fish.

About 30 barrels of trout are taken annually in the *rivière de l'Anse pleureuse*, a few miles east of Mont Louis, and in the Mont Louis river about ten barrels more.

The trout taken at Mont Louis are large; they measured from 8 to 15 inches in length, and weigh from two to six pounds.

I had the pleasure of meeting the missionary priest belonging to Ste. Anne des Monts, and I am indebted to him for a great deal of very valuable and interesting information in relation to the establishments at Mont Louis.

From what he states I would infer that there is sufficient good land along the banks of the Mont Louis river, and within a short distance of the sea, to produce food for one hundred families.

The sea weed which is to be found in abundance along the coast, would furnish excellent manure.

The land is nearly as rich on the hills, and on the sides of the mountains, as it is in the plains below.

Timber of all kinds is abundant along the upper part of the river. Maple, ash, tamarack, elm, pine, and many other kinds of wood are to be found there, and can be brought down the river to the sea without difficulty.

Mont Louis valley is about five miles in width, and is sheltered by high mountains from the cold north and north-west winds, so that the climate is milder than that of the north shore of the St. Lawrence in the vicinity of Quebec. One of the inhabitants of the valley, a person named Lapointe, who devotes more of his time to farming than any of the others, told me that he frequently does his ploughing in April, when the country about Quebec is still covered with snow.

The crops which I saw were nearly ripe and apparently in excellent condition.

Mont Louis bay was one of the first fishing stations established by the French on the St. Lawrence. The establishments which they founded must have been very extensive, as the ruins of several buildings, showing the extensive scale on which their works were carried on, are still to be seen.

Among other evidences of this fact, are the ruins of a brick aqueduct, which was evidently constructed for the purpose of supplying the fishing establishments with pure spring water from a mountain in the vicinity.

The French fishing establishments at Mont Louis were completely destroyed a few years before the country was ceded to Great Britain, by an expedition detached from the fleet which was proceeding to the attack on Quebec; the vessels

engaged in the expedition were under the command of Captain Cook, the same who afterwards attained celebrity as a great navigator.

Mont Louis was then abandoned, and remained so until new establishments were commenced there, within the last thirty years.

The present population of Mont Louis is composed of persons from the parishes below Quebec.

I remained in Mont Louis bay nearly the whole day.

On the morning of the 15th, we anchored in the roadstead of Ste. Anne des Monts.

I visited Mr. John Le Boutillier's establishment and was informed by his agent, Capt. Dugas, that from 1,500 to 2,000 quintals of dry cod fish are annually prepared by him for the Mediterranean markets.

At the upper end of the roadstead is the entrance to the Ste. Anne des Monts River, in which schooners of 40 or 50 tons can find shelter in all winds.

The inhabitants of Ste. Anne des Monts came originally from the parishes below Quebec; they are scattered along the coast to a distance of four miles on both sides of the river. They number about 200 families, and support themselves by cultivating the land and fishing. They go fishing as soon as the sowing season is over and carry on the fishing until harvest time. After harvest they take the fish called the fall or *arrière saison* codfish, which is sent to Quebec.

The river Ste. Anne, a stream of considerable length, was formerly well stocked with fish; but for some years back the quantity has greatly diminished; the annual take of salmon at present, is not more than 20 or 30 barrels. This great falling off can only be attributed to the injurious practice on the part of some of the inhabitants of going 20 and even 30 miles up the river to kill the salmon in the deep creeks in spawning time.

I have every reason to hope that the Act which has been passed this year for the protection of the fisheries, will be the means of preventing the unlawful destruction of this noble fish, both in the river just mentioned and in the *Cap de Chatte* river, which is near the former; particularly as I have been informed by M. Rousseau and several other respectable parties, among the rest Messrs. Sasseville and Dugas, that the people of their localities are determined to make every effort to carry out the law.

There had been no infraction of the law as yet, this year. But it was thought that a number of persons were preparing to go up the river in order to engage in salmon fishing, in defiance of the prohibition. I told the magistrate of the place that if he required any assistance from me in carrying out the law for the protection of the fisheries, I should proceed to Ste. Anne at once to help him.

I must state in conclusion that Ste. Anne des Monts is a flourishing settlement and is rapidly increasing in wealth and population. It will in a few years compare favourably with any of the central parishes of Canada.

The inhabitants of Ste. Anne des Monts have themselves made a good road to *Cap de Chatte*, and as soon as means of communication are opened between the latter place and the Matane establishments, Ste. Anne des Monts will be within four days' journey of Quebec, summer and winter.

At noon I returned on board, and we weighed anchor. We steered for the bay of Seven Islands. The wind was fair and blowing hard and not too much sea. We made thirteen knots an hour during the first four hours, and we should have reached the anchorage at the bay of Seven Islands at half-past four o'clock, if the wind had not moderated. Notwithstanding the lull, we came to anchor off the Hudson's Bay Company's establishment at 6 p.m.

The steamer *Victoria*, having on board the honorable the Chief Commissioner of Public Works, with Mr. Page, and the master and several officers of the Trinity house at Quebec, also anchored in the bay at about 8 p.m.

The Commissioner of Public Works and the engineer were visiting the different light-houses on the river and gulf of St. Lawrence, and that of Belleisle.

On the 16th, I visited the point on the east side of the bay, formerly the site of extensive fishing establishments belonging to the French, which were abandoned at the time of the conquest.

Between the point and the island we saw an American schooner engaged in fishing for mackerel. There were also five other schooners (four American and one from Nova Scotia) which had been in the bay of Seven Islands for some weeks, engaged in the same fishery. They all used the seine.

The mackerel were somewhat plentiful. From 100 to 150 barrels had in several instances been taken in one draught of the seine.

Mr. Clarence Hamilton, who owns a fishing establishment in the bay, had during the previous week taken 150 barrels of very fine mackerel with a seine which was by far too short. The fish were so plentiful on that occasion, that Mr. Hamilton could have taken from four to five hundred barrels with a seine one hundred and twenty fathoms in length and deep in proportion. Unfortunately opportunities of the kind are of rare occurrence, and I have been told by masters of vessels engaged in the mackerel fishing, that they had cruised for weeks and even for months, without making one successful haul of the seine.

Since last year there have been six cod-fishing establishments commenced at the Seven Islands. The principal one belongs to Mr. Hamilton, who employs fourteen boats and thirty-six men.

The cod fishery had not been successful since the spring, at the bay of Seven Islands, notwithstanding the favourable reports with regard to that place, which had led the fishermen to expect good success there. In place of going into the bay and approaching the shore as usual, in pursuit of the herring and capelan, the fish had remained on the banks outside, and the fishermen were obliged to go out there to carry on the fishing.

It was, however, expected that the fall fishing would be good.

On the 17th and 18th, I was occupied in arranging a difficulty which had arisen between Mr. Comeau, the agent in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company's trading post, and Mr. Clarence Hamilton.

Mr. Comeau complained that Mr. Hamilton had encroached on the land belonging to the Company in building his fishing establishment; on the other hand, Mr. Hamilton urged that he had done nothing but what was authorized by the Fishery Act in taking possession of the land, as he required it for the purpose of carrying on his fishing operations, and as the Hudson's Bay Company did not occupy it, and never had occupied it, though they had partly fenced it in.

Under such circumstances I thought it better to advise both parties to arrange the matter in an amicable manner, by dividing the disputed land equally between them. I felt the more inclined to advise this course, from being convinced that the portion of ground and of the beach which each party would receive, would amply suffice for the requirements of their respective establishments.

My proposal was accepted. I measured the land myself, stakes were planted, and both parties declared themselves perfectly satisfied.

I was also occupied at the same time, in the matter of a complaint lodged by Mr. Stuart, the Hudson's Bay Company's sub-agent at Seven Islands, against Alexandre Arsenault and Jean B. Duchesne, charging them with having maliciously killed a horse belonging to the Company.

I took Mr. Stuart's deposition and issued warrants to have the accused arrested and brought before me. But although my men instituted a very active search, they only caught Duchesne.

I examined the prisoner, who was accused of having killed, or assisted to kill

the horse in question. I took the evidence of a Montagnais Indian named Pierre Petarhoo, who was the only witness as to the fact; and, the accusation not being sustained, I gave Duchesne his liberty.

On the 18th, my men made another attempt to find Alexandre Arsenault: they searched the woods in the vicinity of the fishing establishments thoroughly, but without success. I afterwards learned that he had fled to Moisie river, and thence to the coast of Gaspé.

Having nothing further to do at Seven Islands, I gave orders to make sail, and at 4 p. m. I landed at Moisie River.

The Moisie River is one of the largest rivers on the north shore, it is at least a mile in width at the mouth, and becomes still wider as you ascend. The entrance is obstructed by shifting sand banks, but vessels drawing nine feet can cross the bar and find shelter inside in any wind. It is said to take its source from the ridges midway between the Hudson's Bay Coast and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

It pours an immense body of water into the sea. The bed of the river is formed of sand.

The Moisie River is one of the best rivers for fishing, among all those on the north coast. Although the present year has been a bad year for salmon fishing on the north shore as well as on the south, yet there have been barrels of fish taken by the different parties who had laid their nets.

I give below the names of the proprietors of stationary fisheries on the Moisie River, in operation during the present year.

On the East Side.

1st Fishery,	Messrs. Tetu and Chisholm.
2nd "	Mr. Davison.
3rd "	Mr. Charles Mercier.

On the West Side.

The Hudson's Bay Company have all the fisheries.

The crews of several vessels which happened to be in the river during the whole time when the salmon were going up, laid their nets at different points along the stream, but did not meet with great success.

In the River Moisie, fishing begins about the beginning of June, and ends with the month of July.

On the 1st August, which is the time appointed by law for closing the fisheries, the nets had all been removed from the river.

On the Moisie River, the practice of killing the salmon in the creeks and other places where they go to spawn, does not seem to prevail.

The Hudson's Bay Company had disposed of a salmon to an American house belonging to Portland and, by order of the parties purchasing, it was cut up while yet fresh, into pieces weighing about one or two pounds each, which were made up in tin boxes and carefully soldered.

I sailed in the evening for the eastern part of the coast, and landed on the 19th at Shelldrake River.

The number of fishing establishments at Shelldrake was the same as last year, but there were not so many fishermen employed. The fish had not been so plentiful as it was in 1856.

I was informed that, during the high tides last fall, the strong winds which prevailed from the south-west had repeatedly forced the water over the sand bar on which the houses, scaffoldings and salting benches, belonging to the fishermen, are situated, and that a large amount of damage was thereby sustained.

I was informed by Mr. Philippe Touzel, one of the fishermen residing at Shelldrake, that wishing to establish a fishing station on Thunder River, he had gone there a few weeks before, for the purpose of taking possession of an unoccupied part of

the beach, and that after he had begun preparing the ground for the erection of the necessary buildings, three persons named respectively Ennis, William Grath, and Briant, approached him uttering threats, and stating that they would not allow him to set up an establishment in that place.

He also told me that the same parties had repeatedly attacked a man, whom he had left there to carry on the work, necessary for the erection of his establishment, so that he was obliged to leave the place and return to Shelldrake.

Mr. Touzel asked to be protected in holding possession of the vacant spot which he had selected, and that the parties who had, without provocation, ill-treated his servant, should be punished.

Taking Mr. Touzel and his servant Beaudoin on board, I sailed for Thunder River. On arriving, I proceeded to the place where I expected to find Ennis, McGrath and Briant. I went to their establishments, but the men were not to be found. I was informed that, having been made aware of my approach, they had absconded, and concealed themselves in the neighbouring woods. I then visited the spot which Touzel had taken possession of, and found that it was vacant, and that there was nothing to indicate that it had ever been occupied.

I then told Touzel that as a British subject, he had a right to take possession of ground sufficient for carrying on his fishing operations, and to hold the same as his property, subject to the condition of not allowing it to remain unoccupied during twelve consecutive months.

I also told him, if he were again molested, to write to me at Percé, and that on receiving his complaint I should return to Thunder River as soon as possible.

I then visited seven schooners, which were at anchor in the river. Four of them were from the Gaspé coast, the others were : the schooner "Lady," 57 tons, Philibert Bergeron, master, from the Parish des Eboulements, with a crew of six men, and carrying three fishing-boats ; the "Primrose," from Malbaie, (above), Hubert Pilote, master, five men and two boats ; and the "Primrose," also from Malbaie, (above) Xavier Boily, master, carrying five men and two boats.

These vessels were all successfully engaged in the cod-fishery.

The master of one of the Gaspé vessels had a few days before, taken 180 barrels of mackerel at a single haul of the seine, at the mouth of the river. This was the only instance in which the fish had appeared in such large numbers near the coast.

The masters of the vessels from Malbaie (above) and the Eboulements, told me that this was their first trial of cod-fishing in the Gulf. They said that they were satisfied with the result.

I urged them strongly to return next year, but to come better prepared, and provided with a larger number of men and boats. I told them that they would be well repaid for their efforts, provided they carried on their fishing operations with judgment, and above all, with perseverance.

It is to be hoped that the example given by the schooners from Malbaie and the Eboulements, will be followed by many others from the Parishes, both on the north and south sides of the rivers ; and that our Quebec ship-owners will at last understand the importance of the vast resources which Canada possesses in the Lower St. Lawrence and in the Gulf, hitherto developed by foreigners, who find them a source of great profit.

I give below a list of the establishments on Thunder River :

On the East side.

		Boats.
No. 1.	John Howell's establishment	4
" 2.	Stephen Wells "	2
" 3.	James Cummings' "	2

On the West side.

" 4. Lawrence Kennedy's establishment.....	3
" 5. John Le Rhé "	2

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There are forty men employed in these establishments, which have been only three years in existence.

I entered Magpie bay at half-past three o'clock, and there visited several fishing stations belonging to fishermen from Bonaventure. Cod fishing had been more successful in this place than at any part of the North shore which I had lately visited. Here also I was obliged to settle a dispute which had arisen, regarding the possession of a fishing ground.

At Rambler's Cove, which is situated half a mile to the west of Magpie Bay, the fishermen had taken large quantities of fish.

In the evening we sailed for the Coast of Gaspé.

On the 20th, in the afternoon, I landed at l'Anse aux Griffons.

On the 21st, I visited the establishments at *Cap des Rosiers*, and on the following day I proceeded to Gaspé basin, where I remained till the 24th.

I visited as usual the vessels in port. All was quiet.

I received from Mr. John Eden the weights and measures which are used as the Government standard, in order to take them to the Magdalen Islands, where the storekeepers' weights and measures had never been tested and stamped by a public officer. I then set sail, after taking on board Mr. Matthew Ryan, the inspector of customs for Lower Canada, who went to the Magdalen Islands for the purpose of inspecting the port of Amherst.

On the 25th we touched at Percé, and on the 26th we anchored in the bay of Plaisance.

The fisheries were very successful at the Magdalen Islands.

Mackerel was abundant in the Bay of Plaisance, and cod was sufficiently plentiful on the banks in the vicinity of the Etang du Nord, of the Anse à la Cabane, and of the Basin, to give the fishermen a good daily return for their labour.

The only vessels in Amherst harbour were four schooners and the mail boat. Some American vessels fitted out for the mackerel fishery, were still fishing near the Magdalen Islands with some success. But the general complaint was that the fish were neither as large nor as fat as they were last year at the same period. Several full cargoes of dry cod had already been shipped to Halifax, the prices paid there being exceedingly high. Captain Painchaud, amongst others, had sent one cargo, consisting of five hundred quintals.

The news received from all points was favourable.

Fish of all kinds were plentiful, and the fishermen had fine weather for carrying on their operations.

At the Etang du Nord the boats frequently brought in from eight to ten drafts of cod. (A draft of codfish weighs two hundred and fifty pounds.)

The inhabitants had no cause of complaint against the foreign fishermen.

On the 29th at noon we left Amherst. In rounding the eastern point of the Magdalen Islands, we fell in with forty schooners, nearly all from the United States, at anchor, under shelter of Grosse Isle. They were unable on that day to carry on the mackerel fishery, the wind being too high.

On the 30th, we touched at Caraque in order to land Mr. Ryan, who intended returning to Canada by way of New Brunswick, and on the following day we came to an anchor in the roadstead of Paspébiac, after having been during a part of the day aground on a small sand bank, the vessel escaping without any damage whatever.

In the fishing establishments at Paspébiac great activity prevailed in the preparation of cod for exportation ; a great deal of it was intended for the Brazil market.

The cod sent to Brazil requires to be made up in packages called on the coast tubs. Each tub contains 128 lbs. of well dried fish. The packing is done by means of an iron screw worked by three men, the fish being thus pressed in the tub and forced into the smallest possible space. In this state it will keep for a very long time even in the warmest climates, and may be conveniently carried into the interior of the countries for which it is intended.

The house of Robin & Co., had already during the present season shipped a cargo of fish prepared in this manner to Brazil, and I was told that they realized a handsome profit.

I visited New Carlisle, at which place the court was then sitting.

On the 4th September, I proceeded to Bonaventure.

The barque "Nazarene" belonging the American House of Miriam & Co., who carry on business at this place, was in the roadstead, loading fish of all kinds and shingles for New York. There was also in the roadstead an American schooner of 175 tons loaded with shingles and fish from the same house ; she was only awaiting a fair wind to set sail.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Allain, the parish priest of Bonaventure, and Mr. McCracken a justice of the peace.

I was informed by them that there had been only a few barrels of salmon taken in the river Bonaventure.

There had been no nets placed at the mouth of the river. The Indians had been fishing with their negogs, but I did not hear that they had taken any salmon after the first of August.

On this part of the coast of the Bay of Chaleurs, which, it is true, foreign fishermen are not much in the habit of frequenting, the most perfect tranquillity prevailed.

On the 5th, I visited Carleton and Dalhousie.

On the 6th, at 3 o'clock A. M., I gave orders to leave Carleton, the wind blowing strong from the North West, and at noon I landed at Grande Rivière where I met the agent for the house of Robin, and Mr. Carburg, one of the magistrates of the place.

At Grande Rivière and nearly everywhere along the coast of Gaspé, the cod-fishery had not been good during the month of July ; but from the first of August and particularly from the fifteenth, our fishermen had had very good success.

Three boats employed in fishing for Mr. Carburg, had brought him in as the proceeds of the day's fishing on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th September, 110 drafts of the finest cod.

The bait used by our fishermen was the squid.

This singularly shaped little fish is exceedingly gelatinous and is greedily devoured by the cod ; it was very plentiful near our coast and there was no difficulty in taking it.

At 4 P. M. we weighed anchor, and at 6 P. M. we arrived at Percé.

At 7 in the morning, I visited the establishments at Percé, and at 11 A. M. I gave orders to set sail for the Labrador Coast. We had a strong wind from the south-west, for us a fair one.

At midnight we doubled the eastern point of the Island of Anticosti, and on the 9th at 3 P. M. we came to anchor in the Anse aux Blancs Sablons.

I visited all the establishments in this place and obtained the following information.

About one hundred and fifty schooners, most of them from Nova Scotia, and the remainder from the Magdalen Islands, the United States and Prince Edward's

Island, had carried on the cod-fishery near the coast, and on the banks in the vicinity of the cove, with some success.

The fishing had commenced on the 20th of June, and ended on or about the 1st of August.

During the whole of that time there had been no lack of capelan and lance (*langon*), which are the usual bait.

The herring had appeared on the coast at the beginning of August; this was earlier than usual.

This fish always approaches the coast in greater numbers at the time of the high tides than at other times.

On the 7th of September, herring were still plentiful in the Anse aux Blancs Sablons, and several hauls of the seine were made on that day.

Nearly two hundred schooners, of which number a great part had been engaged in the codfishery, had carried on the herring fishery in this Cove.

It was estimated that at least sixty were employed in the herring fishery between Salmon Bay and *la baie Rouge*.

Large quantities of this fine fish had been taken. Nearly all the vessels went away full loaded.

The schooners from the Magdalen Islands in particular had been very successful.

I was informed by Mr. Labbé, the agent for the house of Le Boutillier and Brothers, that in the night of the 29th July last, the French Corvette "La Sérieuse" having on board the commandant of the French station at Newfoundland, struck on a dangerous reef in the little harbour within the Anse aux Blancs Sablons.

Fortunately on the following day, at high tide, after great exertions on the part of the crew, the vessel was floated off and brought to the anchorage in the Anse. She had lost her rudder but was enabled to refit and proceed to Halifax.

Before quitting the Anse aux Blancs Sablons for the last time this year, I obtained from all of the proprietors and fishermen belonging to the place, a report of the condition of the different establishments, shewing the number of men and boats employed, together with the quantity of fish prepared at each of them; I annex the documents to this report.

I obtained similar returns from all the other fishing stations on the coast.

The information which I give may be relied upon as exact, as it was obtained from the proprietors themselves or from their friends.

On the afternoon of the 10th, I proceeded to Bradore Bay, at which place I remained until the 14th.

The cod and herring fisheries commenced in Bradore bay, at the same time as in the Anse aux Blancs Sablons.

The shoals of herring did not resort as usual to the upper end of Bradore Bay on account, I was told, of there having been too many seines at the entrance to the bay, ready to intercept them on their first appearance.

I was assured that there were at times fifteen seines between the Anse des Dames and the Bradore Islands, that is to say in front of the bay.

Notwithstanding this fact, nearly all the fishermen had taken full cargoes of fish. They took the herring in the offing, instead of taking them at the upper end of the bay.

There is of course, no law to prevent British subjects from taking the herring wherever the fish can be found.

Besides it is impossible to say whether the fish would have resorted to the upper end of the bay in large numbers, even though there had been no seines at the entrance.

I make these remarks, because several of the inhabitants residing on the bay wished me to prevent the fishermen from fishing with the seine in the offing.

There were twelve schooners in Bradore Basin engaged in preparing the herring; a few weeks before, there were in the same place more than fifty fishing vessels belonging to Nova Scotia, the Magdalen Islands, and the United States, the greater number of which had had the good fortune to take good cargoes.

Every time that I visited the establishments on this part of the coast, I had the pleasure of being informed, that the foreign fishermen had committed no depredations whatever on the coast, and that our fishermen had in no way been molested.

There had been no attempts on the part of any person to injure the sedentary salmon or seal fisheries, or to take possession of fishing stations which were already occupied.

These good results must certainly be attributed to the presence of "La Canadienne" in the waters of the Gulf, for before that vessel visited the Labrador Coast, our fishermen had continual cause of complaint against the foreign and even the English fishermen, as witness the numerous petitions on the subject presented to the Government.

On the morning of the 14th, with a light breeze from the east, we sailed from Bradore Bay.

During the day we were becalmed on Belles Amours bank. The crew took a large number of excellent cod with the line.

On the 15th I landed at *Tête à la Baleine* and obtained from Mr. Michael Kenty, who is engaged in the seal and cod-fishery, information concerning the fisheries carried on on this part of the Labrador coast, together with a statement shewing the number of fishing establishments, the number of men employed, and the quantity of fish taken by each of them.

At 11 A. M. a strong wind sprung up in the offing, and I was obliged in consequence to return on board. A fog then set in, and we lay-to until the following day, when the wind became more favourable.

In the afternoon, we were able to distinguish Cape Whittle, and towards evening, we set sail for the Gulf, with a very strong north-west breeze.

On the 17th, at 8 A. M. we were within about 10 miles of the Bird Islands, and on the following day at 5 A. M. we came to an anchor opposite Amherst harbour.

Since my last visit to the Magdalen Islands, there had been a great deal of bad weather, and the fishermen had been able to reach the fishing grounds only at rare intervals.

The fishing vessels belonging to Amherst and House harbour had returned from the Labrador cruise. They all had good cargoes of cod and herring. The crews were busy preparing the fish for market. Our fishermen had been successful in the mackerel-fishery in the bay.

I was told that the American fishermen had not been so successful in their fishing operations off the coast of the Magdalen Islands, and that a great many of their vessels had gone away with half a cargo.

I visited House Harbour; saw the public officers and principal inhabitants of the place; and, having satisfied myself that my presence was no longer required at the Magdalen Islands, I gave orders to set sail on the 21st.

Near Corps Mort we sighted some ten American schooners engaged in the mackerel fishery on banks to which those fish resort in large numbers. Judging from their frequent changes of position, the vessels did not appear to be very successful.

Between the Magdalen Islands and Miscou Island we fell in with six more American schooners engaged in the same fishery. These vessels appeared to be taking large quantities of fish.

On the 22nd at midnight we passed the Miscou Island light, and on the 23rd, we came to an anchor in the roadstead of Carleton.

I am indebted to Mr. Verge for the following details concerning the fisheries carried on off the coast of the Bay of Chaleurs, between Bonaventure and the River Ristigouche.

The Salmon fishery was almost a complete failure during the present year, in the River Ristigouche and on the coast of the Bay of Chaleurs.

The quantity of fish taken this year did not amount to the one-seventh part of the quantity taken during an average season.

The fishing on the coast of New Brunswick had been no better, and I was told that there had been little or no fish taken this season in the Miramichi River, which is usually so well stocked.

The principal salmon fishing stations on the Canadian coast in the River Ristigouche are as follows:

Fishing Stations.	Belonging to	Produce.
Bourdon Point.. .. .	Robert Busteed	15 b'rls of salmon.
Crosse Point.. .. .	John Fraser	30 " "
Battery Point	Alexander Busteed	15 " "
Lagarde Point	John Dunkin	12 " "
Fleurant Point		
And three miles lower down.	Edmond Stewart.	90 " "
	Total.....	162 " "

Principal salmon-fishing stations on the Canadian coast in the Bay of Chaleurs :

Fishing Stations.	Belonging to	Produce.
Point Magoucha	Dr. C. M. Le Billois.. .. .	30 b'rls of salmon.
Carleton Bay, 1st.. .. .	Frederick Arsenault	10 " "
" " 2nd	H. Landry	18 " "
" " 3rd.. .. .	Jean Gauvreau.	10 " "

The three last stations are situated about two miles from each other.

Carleton Point 1st	Romain Landry.. .. .	10 b'rls of salmon.
" " 2nd	Jos N. Verge	15 " "

On the coast in the Parish of Maria :

1st Station.	Fabien Allan	6 b'rls of salmon.
2nd "	Peter Thibaudeau	20 " "
3rd "	John Vaughan	25 " "
	Total.....	144 " "

The above statement shows the average yield of the salmon-fishery during five years, viz : from 1852 until 1856.

HERRING FISHERY.

The herring fishery on the coast of the Bay of Chaleurs between Magoucha Point and Carleton, had not been very successful.

At Maria and New Richmond the fishing had been very good.

There is also an autumn herring fishery on this part of the Gaspé coast, but for some years back the produce of this fishery has been very small.

There were during the present year, 10,000 barrels of herring exported from the different stations which I have just mentioned ; of this quantity, 7,000 barrels were sent to the United States.

The quantity of cod taken in the Bays of Carleton and New Richmond is small.

Agriculture continues sensibly to progress on the shores of the Bay of Chaleurs and of the River Ristigouche.

The present year's harvest was very fine.

The inhabitants were all pleased to learn that the Government intend to cause a road to be opened on the Metapédiac River, in order to open communication between the settlements on the River Ristigouche and those on the St. Lawrence.

Parties who had visited that part of the County of Bonaventure, told me that on the banks of the River Metapédiac, there is a large extent of level country, covered with timber of the first quality, and very well adapted for cultivation.

I have no doubt that when once this road shall have been completed, a few years will see agricultural settlements established throughout its whole length, so as to form a link between the parishes below Quebec and those in the District of Gaspé.

This new road by way of the River Metapédiac is much required, as the existing road between the River Ristigouche and the St. Lawrence, known as the Kempt Road, was made through a mountainous country in which there are no settlers, and in which it is therefore impossible to keep roads in repair. During the autumn and part of the winter, it is almost impossible to travel over it except on foot. The soil on this road is in general poor or difficult to cultivate, and there can be but little reason to hope that it will be settled.

On the 25th, I went to visit the mission on the Ristigouche River.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. J. Fraser, the missionary of the Indian village, and several of the respectable inhabitants, who assured me that tranquillity and order prevailed everywhere on that part of the coast.

On the 27th, I returned to Carleton and on the same day went to New Richmond. There I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Thornton and Mr. Montgomery.

With the latter gentleman I visited both the Rivers Cascapédiac, and obtained the following information :

The Great Cascapédiac River, which runs into the bay of the same name, is about a quarter of a mile in width at its mouth, and is of very great length. Canoes and even flat bottomed boats can ascend it to a distance of 120 miles from the sea.

This river was formerly well stocked with fish, and until within the last few years it produced from 150 to 200 barrels of salmon yearly. In 1856 it produced 50 barrels and in 1857 a little less than that number.

The salmon taken in the Great Cascapédiac River are the largest taken on our coasts. They are frequently found to weigh 45 or 50 pounds. The average weight is about 22 pounds. The river is also well stocked with trout of fine quality, weighing from 1 to 8 pounds.

Several of the settlers on the banks of the river are given to the destructive practice of going, in the month of September, to the place (sometimes 40 or 50 miles from the mouth of the river) where the fish remain to spawn, there to take them with the net or with spears.

This practice of destroying the fish at the moment when they are about to accomplish the important act of reproduction, accounts for the great falling off in the quantity of salmon in the Cascapédiac River, and in all the other Canadian rivers resorted to by that fish.

The Indians are also in the habit of going up the river in the autumn in their bark canoes, and destroying large number of salmon by torchlight with their *vigogs*.

I was told that they did not go up this year, as the quantity of fish in the river was too small to give a prospect of success.

I am of opinion that as soon as the Fishery Act shall have been distributed among the magistrates and other persons interested in the preservation of the salmon, it will be easy to prevent, in great part, the destruction of this valuable fish, especially if the Government shall authorise the magistrate in command of the Government Schooner to station one or two of his men at the places where infractions of the law are most likely to occur, in order that the guilty parties may be taken in the act, and punished as an example to others.

The lesser Cascapédiac river, which enters the bay of the same name one mile to the east of the Great Cascapédiac, contains no salmon, but is full of trout.

There are no large fishing establishments on Cascapédiac Bay, nor on that of New Richmond, the inhabitants are altogether taken up with the cultivation of the soil, which is very rich.

The agricultural settlements extend up the Great Cascapédiac to a distance of fifteen miles from its mouth; but the absence of roads has hitherto prevented the people from settling in the interior, where the land is level, rich, and covered with the very best of timber.

Those who venture to take up lots at a distance from the high road, find it extremely difficult and often impossible, to bring their spare produce to a market.

For many years back there has been a large lumber business carried on at New Richmond. The square timber and deals go to England, the pine boards to Newfoundland and the shingles to Halifax.

There were formerly a large number of vessels built every year at New Richmond, most of them at the late Mr. Cuthbert's establishment. This branch of industry has been in great part abandoned, owing to the scarcity of timber in the vicinity, and especially to the low prices prevailing at Liverpool and other English ports to which the vessels were sent to be sold.

However there are about five or six schooners built there every year for the fisheries and the coasting trade.

New Richmond will certainly become a place of importance within a few years, provided roads be opened by Government, so as to enable settlers to reach the interior of the country, where the lands are much richer than those in the vicinity of the coast.

In addition to a large tract of level country, capable of supporting a numerous population, either from the produce of the forest or the cultivation of the soil, New Richmond has also the advantage of a good harbour, in which vessels of the largest burden can find safe shelter at any time and in any wind.

The population of New Richmond is chiefly composed of Scotch settlers, who are said to be good farmers.

On the 29th, I proceeded to New Carlisle, and thence to Paspébiac, where I found seven vessels loading dry cod, for Brazil, Spain and Italy, and a number of schooners preparing to start for Quebec with salt fish.

On the 30th, I visited the establishments at Port Daniel.

Mr. McPherson, the custom-house officer of the port, gave me the following information concerning the fisheries carried on on that part of the coast.

There are about 100 boats owned in the township of Port Daniel, which includes l'Anse aux Gascons, l'Anse à la Barbe, Port Daniel and Point Loup-Marin. These boats are from eighteen to twenty feet in length, and carry two men each.

Nearly 2,000 barrels of herring were taken this year at Port Daniel, the first instance of so large a quantity being caught. The capelan did not make its appearance on the coast, and the cod fishery was rather less successful than ordinary. About a hundred and fifty schooners belonging to the United States, had at different times during the season gone into Port Daniel. Mr. McPherson and the inhabitants of the coast had no complaints to make of the crews of those vessels.

The rivers which fall into Port Daniel had yielded about 60 barrels of salmon.

In the afternoon, I landed at Grand River, and the following day, 1st October, anchored at Percé. They lamented the bad weather they had had on that part of the coast, which had often prevented the boats from proceeding to the fishing-grounds.

That afternoon I proceeded to l'Anse du Cap, where lay the brigantine "Belinda," loading with cod for Spain. The cod fishery had been good at l'Anse du Cap and on the neighboring coast.

I returned to Percé in the evening.

On the next day, I visited the establishments at Point St. Pierre, and proceeded to Gaspé Basin in the course of the night. In the port were three brigantines and several schooners.

The brig "Ste. Anne," belonging to Mr. John Le Boutillier, was ready to sail for Civitavecchia with a cargo of 3,000 quintals of dry cod of the first quality.

The mackerel fishery carried on as usual in the bay of Gaspé by the inhabitants, had been tolerably successful. The cod fishery off Douglas Town had not been productive, but, to make amends, the fishermen of the place, who had gone to the north shore of the gulf had had great success.

Mr. Shaw's saw-mill had been in operation till the end of March, and the lumber turned out, which must contribute much to the prosperity of Gaspé Basin, had furnished cargoes to seven ships bound for different English ports.

On the 4th October, in the evening, Captain Vibert, of the brig "Ste. Anne," applied for my assistance to effect the arrest of a man of his crew, who had deserted with a boat belonging to his vessel. I immediately despatched the master in my boat, and he succeeded, after a fatiguing chase, in bringing the runaway on board.

On the 5th, we left Gaspé Basin, and shaped our course down the River St. Lawrence.

I visited the Peninsula and l'Anse aux Griffons.

On the 6th I put in at Fox River. On the 8th I landed at Grand Etang; and on the 10th in the afternoon, notwithstanding a strong gale, we made the River Magdalen.

At Grand Etang, I visited and examined with much attention the distilling apparatus in Mr. L'Espérance's manufactory of cod liver oil for medical purposes, and I must express my admiration of the minute attention to cleanliness with which every part of the process is conducted. I do not hesitate to recommend the oil produced there as the best which can be made.

The American schooner which had been fishing for mackerel off the Magdalen, had filled only 50 barrels.

I settled a dispute which had arisen between two of the inhabitants of the place; and on the 12th, we weighed anchor to return to Percé.

The autumn cod fishery had had generally but moderate success on all the coast from L'Anse aux Griffons to the River Magdalen. This arose from no deficiency of the cod: the fish was abundant on all the fishing grounds, but from the scarcity of the bait, of which the supply was insufficient throughout the season. There was abundance of herring near the shores, but so small that it could not be taken with the ordinary net. I have seen fishermen come from L'Anse aux Griffons to the Bay of Gaspé in search of shell fish to bait their lines, not being able to procure any fish which might be used as a bait for cod. This was the case at point St. Pierre, where I stopped on the 12th. At Malbaie, a small fish called a shrub was used as bait, being found in great numbers in the River du Barachois, at the head of the bay. The smelt also abounds in that river.

On the same day, I arrived at Percé.

On the 13th, I visited the fishing establishments at the Island of Bonaventure, the chief of which belongs to the house of LeBoutillier and Brothers. They had one seventh less fish than last year. The island has 14 resident inhabitants, who employ forty fishing boats, but during the season there have been as many as one hundred, the neighbouring fishing grounds being accounted good. All was peaceable and quiet on the coast, and there were but few foreign vessels.

On the 14th, at 6 A.M., we sailed for the Magdalen Islands. The wind was at first fair, but on the next and following days, it came round in our teeth, and we did not reach Amherst Harbor, after much tacking, till the evening of the 16th. As this was the last visit which I was to make to the Magdalen Islands in the season, I made a point of seeing, not only the public officers and the principal inhabitants of Amherst Island, but also those of Grindstone and Allright Islands, and obtained from them the following information:—

There had been two wrecks on the coast of the Magdalen Islands: one of a schooner, which had been abandoned by her crew near Coffin Island; the other of an English brig, which had struck near the eastern point of the Island. No life was lost in either, and a large part of the sails and cordage was saved from both.

The several fisheries carried on at the islands had all been successful. Of the seal fishing, I have already spoken at the commencement of the present Report. The cod fishery had been very good everywhere, and the fish were fine in quality. The boats resorting to the fishing grounds still come back, late as it is in the season, almost always well loaded.

Mr. Alexis Painchaud, the proprietor of two fishing establishments, and well known in the country for his enterprising character and success in the fish trade, had despatched six cargoes of dry cod to Halifax, and several others of green cod, herring, and mackerel, to Quebec and Montreal.

Mr. Johnson, a merchant at House Harbor, shipped to Halifax several thousand gallons of seal oil and a large quantity of dry cod, herring, and mackerel.

An American house, established at Amherst Harbor three years ago, have made purchases of several thousand quintals of large cod for the markets of the United States.

The fishing schooners belonging to the Magdalen Islands had sailed, shortly before, with full cargoes of various kinds of fish, some for Halifax, others for Quebec and Montreal.

I feel assured that if fish maintains the prices of the last and preceding autumns, our fishermen will make larger profits than their calling has ever before yielded them. It is to be feared, however, that the large supplies arriving simultaneously at market, may have the effect of lowering the price, for some time at least, and that our people will suffer accordingly, as they are obliged to make sales of their produce without delay, in order to return home before the close of the navigation.

The produce of the season to vessels belonging to House Harbor, was, for 15 schooners, 4,800 quintals of cod; for 15 schooners, 3,000 barrels of Labrador herring; and the people residing on the shore of the bay took about 800 barrels of mackerel.

I was unable, for want of time, to procure a similar statement from the fishermen of the whole coast, but the custom house returns will show the quantity of each kind exported; and those returns would be further increased by the consumption of the population of the islands, in number about 5,000 persons, which will probably add 2,000 quintals of cod, and 5,000 barrels of herring to the account.

The population of the Magdalen Islands are in the enjoyment of a degree of prosperity which they never attained before in many years. The only drawback is the agitation produced among them by the changes which Admiral Coffin, the proprietor of the islands, contemplates making in the mode of tenure. But for this, they would be perfectly happy. Agriculture, which had till lately been quite neglected, has begun to be of important service to the people. The harvest this year was most abundant. All kinds of grain yielded well and ripened perfectly, and the potato was particularly prosperous and abundant. A schooner left the islands for the United States, with a cargo of grain and potatoes, the first example of such an incident in exportation.

In 1852, the whole produce of the islands in grain and vegetables would not have sufficed to feed a tenth of the population. Facts like these need no comment.

For two years past I have made efforts, aided by several energetic inhabitants of Amherst Island, and the islands of House Harbor, to establish an Agricultural Society in the Magdalen Islands, but without success. Next year, I hope for better things. The chief object of such a society ought to be the procuring of good seed grain, and animals of improved breeds.

The inhabitants have had no complaint to make of the foreign fishermen, who come to fish in the bay and on the coast, to the number of several thousands; except a single case of assault and battery, mentioned already in this report, peace and good order prevailed universally. Our own fishermen pursued their avocations without fear of interruption or molestation.

On the 20th, having received on board the Government weights and measures for the purpose of conveying them to Mr. John Fraser of New Carlisle, the inspector of the Revenue for the County of Bonaventure, I gave orders to make sail for Paspébiac. The anchor was weighed at 3, P.M. We had a favorable breeze from the S. E., and passed the east point of the islands; but, while still only 25 miles from Isle Bryon, it fell calm, and so continued through the night.

On the 21st and 22nd the wind was N.W., that is, right in our teeth, but we kept our course. On the 23rd we saw land off Shippagan, and in the morning of the 24th came to anchor in the roadstead of Paspébiac. There were still seven vessels there taking in cargoes of dry and green cod. Twenty had sailed with fish for Brazil, Spain, and Italy. The importance of the trade carried on by the commercial houses on the coast of Gaspé, and particularly at Paspébiac will be conceived by a perusal of the following letter addressed to me by Mr. Alfred Carcaux, representing the house of LeBoutillier & Brothers:

PASPEBIAC, 24th October, 1857.

P. Fortin, Esq.,

Captain, Schooner "La Canadienne."

SIR,—As it is important that you should, in your position, have full information respecting the amount of business transacted in this section of the country, I regret that it is not in my power to furnish you with more ample information concerning that carried on by the house represented by me in Canada.

I furnish you, however, with a statement which will I trust, assist you in drawing up a report of this part of the country, and shewing it to be more important than it is thought to be.

I may be permitted to suggest the necessity of erecting a small lighthouse on the point of Sandy Beach at Paspébiac, which you must have had difficulty in weathering, when you came into the harbor, in the night. Vessels going to the Bay can get in with safety. Fishing boats will be greatly benefited by it.

The fishery has this year exceeded 20,000 quintals of fish.

Our cargoes this year have been as follows :

	Fish.	Oil.	Herring.	Green Fish.
For Brazil.....	5000 tubs.			
For the Mediterranean.....	12000 quintals.			
For England and Jersey.....	750 quintals.	80 tons.	1200 bills.	300
For Quebec	1000 quintals.			
	18750	80	12000	300

For Jersey, 60 tons of birch, 200 tons of pine, 400 of juniper, 50 juniper knees.

We have this year employed 8 square rigged craft and 8 schooners ; and in our establishment 450 fishermen and curers.

The house of Robins carries on a still more considerable business, exporting in 1857 more than 30,000 quintals of cod, besides oil, and other fish.

The latter house also carries on ship-building, and now has on the stocks at Paspébiac, a brig of 280 tons, 112 feet keel, 23½ feet beam and 13½ feet depth of hold, and a schooner of 116 tons, 78½ feet keel, 18½ feet beam, and 8 feet depth of hold.

These two vessels are built with timber from the Bay of Chaleurs, under the skilful direction of Mr. Le Brun, and are in every respect genuine master-pieces of naval architecture.

I owe my warmest thanks to M. Briord, the general agent of the house of Robin & Co., at Paspébiac for his obliging attention and readiness in placing his workmen at my disposal, when the repairs of "La Canadienne" were required.

On the 25th, having settled all my business at Paspébiac and New Carlisle, I prepared to set sail for Percé and Quebec, but the wind having got up kept us in the roadstead eight days.

On the 28th, it blew a heavy gale from the North East, and on the 29th, there were on the roads, 29 vessels, one half of which, destined for Quebec, had been obliged to lie by.

Several others which had arrived in the night, had not been able to get in on account of the darkness. At such times it is, that the light at the point would be of great service, by shewing the point of the spit, which runs far out, and is dangerous.

It is proper to remark, that on all the coast of Gaspé in the Gulf, there are only two places in which vessels can take safe refuge in a gale of wind from the east ; Gaspé Basin and the roadstead at Paspébiac. The former is easily accessible in the darkest nights, by aid of the sounding-line ; but it is not so with the anchorage at Paspébiac, where the coasts have no distinguishing feature, and even the lead cannot be trusted.

A wooden lighthouse, similar to those on the River St. Lawrence, between Quebec and Montreal, twenty feet high and shewing a red light to distinguish it from the lights in the houses and on the vessels, would be amply sufficient for the point at Paspébiac, and would be of the greatest service to our mariners and fishermen.

Colored lights ought also to be placed at various dangerous points on the coast, where our fishermen, obliged to land at night, are frequently in great peril. These might give notice of the rocks, banks and reefs, which here line the coast. Particularly I would invite the attention of the government to that point, where the establishment of the house of Robin is situated. Here, or at the entrance of the River, a light is much needed by the fishermen driven homewards by stress of weather from the banks, to guide them to the mouth of the Grand River, which affords the only safe shelter on that part of the coast.

The buildings for these lights might be very inexpensive, seeing that the material for constructing them is found on the spot.

On 1st November there was a change of wind, and we weighed anchor, making for Percé, where we arrived on the 2nd at 9 A. M. Here I visited the principal fishing establishments, and found every thing quiet and orderly. The fall-fishery had not been productive, the frequent gales from the offing having prevented the boats from proceeding to the fishing grounds.

On the 3rd I visited Point St. Pierre, where a vessel had been wrecked, the "Lady of the Lake" of Aberdeen, Captain George Urquhart, from Fleetwood to Quebec, in ballast. She had gone ashore during the night of 29th October, during a heavy gale from the East. The crew were saved with great difficulty.

During the same gale, three schooners at anchor in Malbaie went ashore, but can be got off.

On the 4th, in the morning, we anchored in Gaspé Basin, where we found a bark, three brigs and six schooners, loading with dry and green cod for Quebec and foreign markets. All was orderly as on the neighboring coast.

Mr. John LeBoutillier informed me that the whalers of the Basin and neighborhood who had been to the fishery with the same number of vessels as last year in the Gulf and the Straits of Bellisle, had had as good success as in any former year, and their profits were greater because oil brought a very high price.

In the afternoon, I gave orders to make sail for Quebec, intending to touch at several points of Anticosti. The fisheries were nearly all concluded, the season was far advanced, and the vessels going to Quebec were mostly on their way.

On the 5th, I landed at the South West point of Anticosti, where there is a lighthouse. Mr. Pope, the keeper, informed me that the only wrecks which had occurred in the season to his knowledge were those of a bark near Ellis Bay, and of a Canadian schooner off the River Jupiter. The property on board was saved in both cases.

Mr. Corbett, the lessee of the island of Anticosti, informed me that the salmon fishery had failed almost completely, in all the rivers of the island. In one of them where he formerly took 30 barrels of salmon, he had, in the season then closed, taken no more than three. He was unable to account for this great falling off in so important an article, but referred it to some general cause which has diminished the numbers of the fish on all the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

I visited the light-house, which was in excellent order; and at 3 o'clock P. M., embarked for Quebec.

On the 6th, heavy snow fell, drifted by a strong gale from the S. E.

On the 7th, we passed the light-house at Pointe des Monts at 1 in the afternoon; and on the 8th, having taken a pilot at 9 o'clock A. M., off the Pilgrims, came to anchor at 5 o'clock P. M. in the harbor of Quebec.

(Signed,) P. FORTIN,

Magistrate commanding the Government Schooner "La Canadienne."

THE NORTH SHORE OF THE RIVER AND GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE.

The entire north shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence belongs to Canada, as also a part of the coast of Labrador adjoining the strait of Belle Isle.

This length of coast, extending not less than miles, is divided into three parts, viz. :—

The King's Posts, lying between the Seigniory of Portneuf and Cape Cormorant, a distance of

The Seigniory of Terra Firma of Mingan, commencing at Cape Cormorant and extending to the River Goynish or Agwanus.

And the coast properly called the Labrador Coast, including all the distance from the River Goynish to the frontier line of Canada in the Straits of Belle Isle at l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons.

The King's Posts have been leased to the Hudson's Bay Company for many years. The Company had formerly an exclusive right of hunting and fishing; they now enjoy only the right which is common to Her Majesty's subjects. Since the passing of the law which permits every British subject to take possession of any portion of a beach which is unoccupied, a great number of fishermen from the Bay of Chaleurs and the coast of Gaspé have made establishments, at various points about the King's Posts and in the Seigniory of Mingan, for the purpose of profiting by the immense natural wealth of the adjacent sea, wealth which had till then remained untouched, almost unknown, the Hudson's Bay Company caring for nothing but the salmon fishery, and the trade with the Indians.

Thus, while a part of the coast stretching from the Seigniory of Mingan to the Canadian frontier, was already comparatively well settled, the shores of the King's Posts and of the seigniory contained but a few settlements, all of which belonged to the Company.

This latter part of the coast, nevertheless, presented as many advantages for all kinds of fisheries as the former.

But the law was no sooner passed than many fishermen hastened thither, and founded permanent fishing settlements.

At the present time, the experience of four years has convinced our fishermen that in no part of the gulf is there a spot where fish of all kinds are to be found in greater quantity, than on this part of the coast north of the River and Gulf St. Lawrence, stretching from Pointe des Monts to Natastiquan inclusive; and the time is not far distant when we shall see here fishing settlements of as great importance, and conducted on the same footing, as those on the shores of Gaspé.

In my report last year, I gave information concerning one or two of the most important fishing stations in this part of the gulf, not having had time to visit them all.

This year I have visited a greater number, and I have obtained the most exact information concerning the places I have not been able to reach.

I shall therefore affix to my report a statement showing the situation of the fishing settlements on the coast of the King's Posts, their number, inhabitants, &c.

I will add a similar statement for the settlements situated in the Seigniory of Mingan, and that part of Labrador which belongs to Canada.

THE RIVER GODBOUT.

The River Godbout, which falls into the St. Lawrence about 220 miles from Quebec, is in the possession of the Hudson Bay Company, who have a post there for trading and salmon fishing.

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I was told that last year several Gaspé fishermen came to try the salmon fishing here, along the coast near the mouth of the river, but without much success.

To the east of the river, we find a large sandy cove, where small vessels find anchorage and shelter in gales from the west.

For an extent of several miles along the banks of this river, especially on the eastern side, there is a great deal of wood, chiefly tamarack, pine and white birch.

There is no land well fitted for agriculture in the neighbourhood of the River Godbout.

During the autumn, cod abounds in the place, and vessels from Quebec and the neighbourhood, which may have been to Labrador for the purpose of fishing, might here complete their cargo.

Mackerel is also sometimes found here in great quantity.

This year, the captain of an American schooner took at a single haul of the net, near the cove, mackerel enough to fill four hundred barrels.

Several Canadian schooners also have fished for cod and mackerel near the River Godbout with tolerable success.

The salmon fishery in the river yields about forty barrels

RIVER TRINITY.

The River Trinity falls into the River St. Lawrence at Trinity Bay, 6 miles to the eastward of Pointe au Mont, and 233 miles from Quebec.

It is not navigable, any more than the River Godbout.

The Hudson's Bay Company have not any trading post there, but the chief of the Godbout post sends fishermen there, who take about 30 barrels of salmon.

Besides, the owner of a settlement situated on Trinity Point, lays his nets along the coast, near the mouth of the river, and takes about 20 barrels of salmon every year.

I was told that this river was much more frequented by fish than formerly.

Trinity Bay affords good shelter to vessels of all sizes from the west wind; and vessels ascending the river frequently run thither for safety.

Outside the Bay, there are very good fishing grounds for cod, where the little Canadian schooners often obtain good cargoes of autumn cod.

THE CAWEE ISLANDS.

The Cawee Islands are situated near the coast between Trinity Bay and that of the Seven Islands, and afford to vessels excellent anchorage and shelter from all winds.

This circumstance, as well as the number of fish caught in the neighbourhood, induces our fishermen to go and settle there.

For some years since, more than a hundred fishermen from the Bay of Chaleurs, with 40 fishing boats have made, on the Cawee Islands and the adjoining coast, fishing settlements where more than 5,000 quintals of cod have been prepared.

I was told that a dozen families, engaged in salmon, trout, and cod-fishing, and in hunting animals yielding peltry in winter, had settled on the banks of the Pentecost and St. Margaret Rivers, as well as in many other places advantageous for fishing.

THE BAY OF SEVEN ISLANDS.

The Bay of Seven Islands, one of the finest in America, is two miles and three quarters in width by three miles deep.

Six Islands between which are several channels accessible by vessels of the largest tonnage, protect it from the storms which prevail outside.

The whole English Navy might anchor there in perfect security.

At the extremity of the Bay, the Hudson's Bay Company have a trading post, where one hundred Indian families of the Montagnais tribe congregate every spring.

Last year several fishing settlements were made on the coast of the Bay; of these the most important is that of Mr. Clarence Hamilton of New Carlisle.

Mr. Hamilton gives employment to thirty men and twelve boats.

The other establishments employ about twenty men and eight vessels.

All these boats together take about 2500 quintals of cod, some of which is sent to foreign markets, and the remainder to Quebec.

There have been taken besides by our fishermen in the Bay, more than two hundred barrels of mackerel.

Several fishermen intend next year to settle on one of the islands at the entrance of the Bay; they will there be nearer to the fishing banks, where the cod is usually found in summer.

Herring usually enter the Bay in the spring, and approach the shore to spawn.

Sardines of a fine quality are also found.

In the months of July, August and September, we find mackerel in tolerably large shoals in the vicinity of the Bay and even in the Bay itself, and United States schooners are always to be seen taking these fish with seines.

For some reason which cannot be satisfactorily explained, the mackerel does not generally speaking, bite well on the north shore, while on the south shore, at the Magdalen Islands and on the coast of Prince Edward's Island and of New Brunswick, they are nearly always caught with a hook and line.

At a distance of about twelve miles from the Bay of Seven Islands we find the River Moisie, of which I have already spoken in my report, and ten miles further there is another river of no very great size, where Mr. Chisholm, a former employé of the Hudson's Bay Company, has settled with his family. He passes his time in salmon and trout fishing, and in hunting animals yielding furs.

From the latter river to Shallop River, there is no fishing settlement, the different kinds of fish frequenting the gulf not approaching this part of the coast, as there are no banks with bottoms fit for spawning.

The distance from Moisie River to Shallop River is about thirty-six miles.

Fishing settlements belonging to Messrs. Philip Vibert, Savage, and Segras, and to Philip Mabee and Brothers, from the coast of Gaspé, were made in 1856 on the Shallop River, and on a cove situated a few miles to the eastward of it; and twelve fishing boats manned by thirty hands took 1800 quintals of cod and 200 barrels of other fish.

SHELDRAKE OR SANDBILL RIVER.

Sheldrake River is the part of the coast of Mingan Seigniory, where the fishermen have settled in the greatest number on account of the great quantity of different kinds of fish to be found on the banks situated opposite at but a short distance from the shore, and especially on account of the ease with which they can erect their scaffolding at the edge of the basin formed by the river, where their vessels are well sheltered, and are always afloat.

The following is a list of the settlements at Shelldrake which I have already given in my last year's Report.

This year the same settlements remain, but there are not quite so many vessels.

1	Establishment	belonging to	Alfred Mounsell.
2	do	do	to John Lebrun.
3	do	do	to John Ross.
4	do	do	to Philip Touzel.
5	do	do	to Jet Elias Callas.
6	do	do	to René Devouche.
7	do	do	to Philip LeGresley.

Thirty fishing boats belonging to these settlements, in which nearly 100 men were employed, took about 4,590 quintals of cod, and some hundreds of barrels of mackerel.

THUNDER RIVER.

About five miles East of the preceding river, we come to Thunder River, where we find the following establishments :

On the Eastern bank.

1.	Establishment	belonging to	John Howell.
2.	do	do	to Stephen Wells.
2.	do	do	to James Cumming.

On the Western bank.

1.	Establishment	belonging to	Lawrence Kennedy.
2.	do	do	to John Toucel.

The number of men employed at these fishing establishments is 40, with 13 fishing boats ; we may estimate the quantity of cod taken at 2,000 quintals and of mackerel at 100 barrels.

MAGPIE BAY

George Ennis, who employs 18 men and 5 boats, and William Malony, who gives employment to 6 men and 2 fishing boats, have settled in a Cove situated in the West part of Magpie Bay, called Magpie Hill Cove.

These two establishments produce 1,000 quintals of cod.

About the centre of Magpie Bay we find a Cove pretty well sheltered from the winds where the following fishing establishments are situated :

1.	Establishment,	John Duguay,	12 men,	4 boats,	600 quintals of cod.
2.	do	John Ferlat,	16 men,	4 boats,	800 do do.
3.	do	John Hart,	9 men,	3 boats,	460 do do.
4.	do	Pascal Gloger,	18 men,	4 boats,	800 do do.
5.	do	Louis Roussy,	4 men,	1 boat,	150 do do.
			59	16	2810

At the mouth of Magpie River, Mr. John Ross has settled, who employs 20 men and 6 boats. The produce of his fishery is about 1,000 quintals of cod.

Mr. Jean Girard fishes for salmon in Magpie River, where he caught 35 barrels of these fish.

Eight miles East from Magpie Bay is the St. John River, which I have already mentioned in my Report; and 15 miles further still, are Mingan Harbour and Mingan River, which latter falls into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, opposite the Eastern entrance of the Harbour.

The Hudson's Bay Company, who hold the Seigniorship of Mingan have a trading post at the Harbour, where they transact a considerable amount of business. From 80 to 100 families of Montagnais Indians go there every spring to sell to the Company the peltries produced by their hunting.

In exchange they receive arms, gunpowder, goods, provisions, etc.

During the summer the Indians are engaged in seal fishing on the neighbouring coast, on the Mingan Islands and on the Island of Anticosti, and it is not until the month of September that they are supplied from the Company's storehouses with all that they require, and set out for the interior of the country.

Mingan harbour, as I have already said, is one of the best on the coast, and it has this advantage, that it is accessible both in an east and in a west wind.

Vessels fishing on the bar of the St. John always come hither for shelter during storms.

At about 18 miles from Mingan harbour, is Esquimaux harbour, where two families of fishermen from the Magdalen Island went to settle last year for the cod and seal fishery and to hunt animals yielding furs in winter. And if the place turns out well, other families intend to go and join the first, and form a considerable settlement.

Between Esquimaux Harbour and Natashquan (a distance of 67 miles) we find several inconsiderable rivers, but tolerably well stocked with fish, where several families, who live by fishing and hunting, have settled. These are: the Whatsheshov River, where two families have settled; the Napitippi River, and the Goynish or Agwonus River, on which there are two families, one to each river.

NATASHQUAN.

Natashquan is one of the most important places on the North coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on account of the river of the same name which abounds with salmon of the finest kind, and its fishing banks, where in the months of May, June, and July, the fishermen hardly ever fail to find a large quantity of cod.

With all these advantages is combined a harbour easy of access and very safe for fishing boats. Accordingly the place is much frequented. It is here that the schooners, going to fish on the north shore for cod, commence their operations.

In the month of June it is by no means rare to see in Natashquan harbour fifty schooners, the crews of which amounting to nearly five hundred men, go only a few miles from the shore to collect a plentiful harvest, which fully recompenses them for the rough labour to which they submit, and for the dangers to which they are often exposed.

As the fish make their appearance at Natashquan sooner than on the other parts of the northern coast, it is of great advantage to go there. For if the fishing is not productive at that place, there will still be time to go elsewhere, either westward, or to the coast in the Straits of Belleisle, where there are also good fishing grounds, and where the fish appear later than at Natashquan.

I would advise the captains of fishing schooners, either from Quebec or from the lower ports, to go at once to Natashquan about the middle of May, and to try the fishing there, till the end of June. If the fish is then wanting, they should immediately go to Salmon Bay, to Bradore, or to White Sand Cove, where cod is nearly always found in abundance in the months of July and August.

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If these places are no' satisfactory, there is still time to go to Pieds Noirs, and to the Modest Islands, where there are excellent fishing grounds.

As soon as cod-fishing was over, the herring-fishery might be proceeded with, those fish appearing in these latitudes, about the middle of August.

It frequently happens at Natashquan that the cod appear about the middle of June, and remain there during the whole season. In that case, the fishing boats might take their entire cargoes from thence.

These advantages for fishing, presented by Natashquan, have induced several families from the Magdalen Islands to go and settle there. Last year they numbered eight families, this year there are fourteen, making in all a population of one hundred and twenty persons.

The 16 fishing boats used by them have taken about 1,700 quintals of cod besides some barrels of mackerel.

I have already mentioned in my report how successful Mr. H. Vignault had been in his seal-fishing last spring.

If the fishery at Natashquan continues as productive as it has hitherto been, I have no doubt that there will be formed there very considerable fishing establishments, around which will collect as numerous a population of fishermen as there are on the coast of Gaspé.

I know that the Messrs De la Porelle, formerly agents for the Messrs Robin, intend to go and open an establishment there next year on a large scale.

REGASCA BAY.

Regasca Bay, which is easy of access and can afford a safe anchorage during the summer to vessels of all sizes, is situated 15 miles to the east of Natashquan.

Outside of this Bay is the continuation of the Natashquan fishing banks, where the fishermen often go in the autumn to take a very large and fat fish.

Eight families making altogether a population of 27 persons, have settled at Regasca Bay. They have each a fishing boat and live entirely by the cod-fishery, which this year yielded them only about 400 quintals, on account of the scarcity of fish in the vicinity of the Bay.

MUSQUANO RIVER.

The Musquano River falls into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Regasca Bay.

It is occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company's fishermen, who obtain 30 barrels of salmon from it every year.

This is an inconsiderable river, and affords shelter to none but small craft.

ALOMONOSHEBO RIVER.

The Alomonoshebo or Roman River falls into the Gulf of St. Lawrence about 18 miles east of the preceding.

It is equally inconsiderable, and is occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company. The annual product of this river hardly exceeds fifteen barrels of salmon.

COACACHO RIVER.

The Coacocho River empties itself a few miles to the westward of Cape Whittle in Coacocho Bay, the only point on this part of the coast where vessels of heavy tonnage can find a secure shelter.

The salmon fishery in this river is worked by Mr. Augustin Boulanger, who has lived there for several years.

The Hudson Bay Company formerly had a trading post there.

The annual product of the fishery is about 30 barrels of salmon.

MATCHIATICK ISLANDS.

Three families engaged in the salmon and seal fishery have settled on the Matchiatick Islands.

Their income may be estimated at 150 seals and 10 barrels of fish.

They devote themselves to the hunting of the fur-bearing animals during the winter.

ETOMOMU RIVER.

The Etomomu River, the current of which is very rapid, falls into the Gulf of St. Lawrence 4 miles north east of Wapitigun Island.

It is occupied as a fishing station for salmon by Mr. Michel Blais.

No other person fishes in the river or in the neighborhood.

The annual product of the fishery is about 40 barrels of salmon.

Mr. Blais trades with the Indians, and is also engaged in the fur trade.

WATAGHEISTIC SOUND.

Two families, composed of eleven persons, have settled in this bay; they are engaged in the seal fishery, and in hunting; animals yielding furs, the produce of which may be estimated at £300.

NETAGAMU RIVER.

The salmon does not run up the Netagamu River on account of the Nantem falls, which are 50 feet high, and are found a mile from its mouth.

One family, who have settled there, are engaged in the seal-fishing, and in hunting animals yielding furs.

Annual produce about £100.

LITTLE MECCATINA ISLAND.

On this island are settled five families, comprising in all twenty-six persons, engaged in the cod and seal-fishery and in hunting animals yielding furs.

The seal fishing-stations of Pointe au Pot and of Esquimaux Harbour formerly yielded a considerable produce; now, hardly enough is sold to pay the working expenses.

It may well be believed that the herds of seals do not frequent this part of the coast as they formerly did.

The fisheries of the island may produce annually the value of £400, including the peltry obtained in winter.

Two fishermen from Little Meccatina work a seal-fishery at Goelon Island. Product—30 seals.

WHALESHEAD ISLANDS.

On the western island, there is a permanent seal-fishery worked by Mr. Michel Kenty, who is also engaged in the cod and herring-fishery.

Produce—45 seals.

do 150 quintals of cod.

do 100 barrels of herring.

On the eastern island, there is a permanent seal-fishery belonging to Mr. Samuel Robinson of La Tabatière, and worked by Mr. Charles Bilodeau.

The annual produce of this place is from 200 to 300 seals.

This year, only 27 of these animals have been taken.

Population of the Whaleshead Islands—20 inhabitants.

SHEEP BAY RIVER.

This river, which is of considerable size, falls into Sheep Bay, and is occupied by Mr. Benjamin Reed for the sake of the salmon-fishery, which produces 30 barrels of salmon.

Population—10.

On the eastern shore of Sheep Bay, three families, have settled, consisting of 20 persons. They are engaged in the salmon, seal, and cod-fishery.

Produce—80 seals.

do 40 barrels of salmon.

In Schooner Bay and Red Bay, opposite Great Meccatina Island, there are five families established, numbering altogether 28 persons.

They are engaged in the seal and cod fisheries at Fish Harbour.

GREAT MECCATINA ISLAND.

Mr. François Levesque occupies a permanent seal fishery on this island which yields him every year from 250 to 350 of these animals. Population—6.

FISH HARBOUR [LA TABATIERE.]

The most important permanent seal fishery on all the coast is at Fish Harbour.

It belongs to Mr. Samuel Robinson and yields him annually from 500 to 1,500 seals.

Last autumn this fishery yielded only 60 seals, on account of the great cold which impeded the laying of the nets in a suitable manner. Mr. Robinson has always twenty men in his employment.

The fishing tackle, which consists of a great number of nets made of very strong twine known as seal-twine, of cordage, anchors, small craft, etc., etc., is worth from £1,000 to £1,500.

SALT LAKE.

Mr. Joseph Gallichon is the owner of a permanent seal fishery at Salt Lake, which yields him annually 150 of these animals.

KIKAPOE.

There is a permanent seal fishery belonging to James McKennon on one of the islands outside of Kikapoe, from which he obtains usually from 150 to 200 seals.

Last year, owing to the great cold, Mr. McKennon took only 40 of these animals.

KIKAPOE WHALESHEAD.

At this place there is a permanent seal fishery belonging to Mr. Jean Legouvé.
 Annual produce..... 200 seals.
 Last year's produce..... 14 "

ST. AUGUSTINE.

The brothers Andrew and Matthew Kennedy have permanent seal and salmon fisheries on the St. Augustine Islands, which usually yield them an annual return of 150 seals and 70 barrels of salmon.

This year they have collected only 40 seals and 10 barrels of salmon. Population, 20.

PORTAGE COVE, (NEAR CHICATACA.)

At Portage Cove, Mr. Philippe LeBroek owns a permanent seal fishery which usually yields him from 250 to 350 seals annually.

This fishery produced only 60 seals last year.

ROCKY BAY.

Mr. John Belvin is engaged in the salmon fishery at the head of Stony Bay.
 Produce, 25 barrels of salmon.

LEGROND HARBOUR.

Mr. Thomas Maurice has settled at Legrond Harbour and is engaged in the cod fishery.

He employs one boat.

Produce 100 quintals of cod.

DOG ISLAND.

Mr. Thomas Rule, who is established on Dog Island, is engaged in the seal and cod fishery.

Produce; 60 seals and 90 quintals of cod.

OLD FORT ISLANDS.

Mr. Samuel Robin carries on the cod fishery at Old Fort Island, where he employs two vessels and four men.

Produce, 220 quintals of cod.

BURNT ISLANDS.

Mr. Leger Levesque, who has settled one of the Burnt Islands, is engaged in seal and cod fishing.

He employs two vessels and five men.

Produce; 100 seals and 200 quintals of cod.

BATEAU HARBOUR.

William Parker is engaged in the cod fishery at Bateau Harbour.

Produce; 100 quintals of cod.

ST. PAUL RIVER.

The St. Paul River, also called Esquimaux River, and Quitzaqui by the Indians, falls into the Gulf of St. Lawrence 640 miles from Quebec, and 25 miles on S. W. of Bradore Bay.

According to the Indians who go up it in bark canoes, its course is more than 300 miles, but for vessels it is only navigable as far as the first rapids, which are only six miles from its mouth.

The St. Paul River is in the seigniory of the same name, which was conceded to Amador Godefroix, Esquire, of St. Paul, on the 20th March, 1706, and comprises five leagues frontage on each bank of the river by ten deep.

This seigniory was sold by the Sheriff of Québec in 1807 to the Labrador Company.

Subsequently Messrs. Nathaniel and Philip Lloyd became the proprietors of it.

Mr. Philip Chevalier bought the salmon fishery post from these last, and gave it to his grandson Louis Chevalier, who is at present settled at the first rapids, and is engaged in the salmon fishery.

I was informed that the Messrs. Lloyd had taken as many as 1,400 barrels of salmon in one year, in the St. Paul River.

The present proprietor only takes about 80 barrels.

It is true that in the Lloyds' time, there were no settlements on the islands opposite the mouth of the river, while at present, four fishermen spread their nets in the channels between these islands.

HARBOUR OF GOOD HOPE.

The Harbour of Good Hope is one of the best on this part of the coast. It is accessible to ships of the heaviest tonnage.

Mr. John Godard has settled on Stick Point Island, and is engaged in salmon fishing, of which fish he takes from 10 to 20 barrels annually.

Mr. James Buckle is engaged in seal and cod-fishing on Godard's Island. Produce, 110 seals and 200 quintals of Cod.

Mr. Buckle employs 4 men and 2 fishing boats.

SALMON BAY.

On the Islands of Salmon Bay, there are five fishing settlements, of which the proprietors are:—Messrs. Louis Chevalier, William Kates, Darius Choaker, Joseph Taylor, and John Haywood.

Seven fishing boats and 18 men are employed at these fishing establishments.

They yield about 1,000 quintals of cod, and 20 barrels of salmon. Population—35.

FIVE LEAGUES.

Mr. John Griffin has settled at Five Leagues Cove. He is engaged in seal and cod fishing. He employs six men and three fishing boats. Produce 115 seals and 220 quintals cod.

MIDDLE BAY.

Peter Hatwood is engaged in cod fishing at Middle Bay, and takes 100 quintals of cod.

BELLES AMOURS.

At Belles Amours there is a good harbour for schooners. Mr. John Buckle who is established there, is engaged in seal and cod fishing. He employs two fishing boats and four men. Produce, 120 seals and 100 quintals cod.

BRADORE BAY AND ANSE AUX BLANCS SABLONS.

Canada extends on the Straits of Belleisle as far as Anse aux Blancs Sablons, at the head of which is the river which marks the line of separation between the part of Labrador belonging to Canada and that part which is under the jurisdiction of Newfoundland.

Pointe Amour, to the east of Forteau Bay, where the Canadian Government have constructed a first class lighthouse, is fifteen miles further; and Belleisle, where another lighthouse has been erected to point out to European vessels the entrance of the strait, is about 75 miles east of Anse aux Blancs Sablons, 14 miles from Quipon Island, and 12 miles from the coast of Labrador.

The navigation of this part of the strait is easy enough, so long as the weather allows the coast to be seen; but it becomes very dangerous on account of the currents, when the heavy fogs prevail, which are brought up by the south and south east winds, and sometimes last for weeks together.

Then it is that steam whistles or cannon placed near each lighthouse, and caused to be heard every quarter of an hour, or every half hour, would be a great help both to steam and sailing vessels which may have preferred this route to the southern one, and to the schooners which frequent the coast of Labrador to fish and to trade.

Anse aux Blancs Sablons is situated in $51^{\circ} 25'$ north latitude, and in $57^{\circ} 10'$ longitude west of Greenwich. It is about a mile in depth by a mile and three quarters wide.

Wood Island, on which are situated three considerable cod fishing establishments, and Green Island, at present uninhabited, but near which there are excellent fishing grounds, shelter it from the south east wind, while the mainland protects it from those from the east, north and north east winds.

The depth of water throughout the whole cove, ranges from 4 to 12 fathoms.

The anchorage is not of the best; however, hundreds of schooners might remain there in safety during the summer months, when the west winds are not high or of long duration. But in autumn it is dangerous to remain there, and vessels are often thrown on the shore by the great storms of wind from seaward.

At about a mile and a half from the head of the bay, is the little harbor of Gulch Cove, where two or three vessels, by mooring to the rocks, might pass the summer, and even the autumn in perfect safety.

Near the eastern part of Green Island, there is a fine sandy cove, where the fishing schooners sometimes anchor to be near the banks of cod, but the bottom is very bad. It was at this spot that twenty-nine fishing schooners were cast on shore in the month of July last, during a terrific storm from the east.

Long Point, outside of which run very dangerous reefs more than a mile in length, separates Anse aux Blancs Sablons from Ladies' Bay, where are two important permanent seal fisheries.

Parrot Island, which is at the entrance of the last named cove, is of no importance, as there is no sheltered spot where a fishing station might be made.

Advancing further, we enter the vast Bay of Bradore or Bras d'Or, so called, doubtless, on account of the great riches that the first navigators who visited it the Spaniards and French found there, in the shape of immense numbers of seals, whale, cod-banks, etc., etc.

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It is about five miles deep by four wide, and contains a number of islands and islets, many of which are inhabited, and which form the basin of Bradore, where fifty schooners may find a very safe harbor, and Bradore Harbor, which affords shelter from all winds to vessels of the heaviest tonnage.

The seal fisheries long since established on Bradore Bay are very productive, especially that belonging to Mr. Randall Jones, which sometimes yields him more than 2,000 seals.

There are also cod fishing settlements here, but they are not on so large a scale as those of Anse aux Blanes Sablons.

On all the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence or of Newfoundland, there is no station so well stocked with fish as the one I have just described. For this reason fishermen from all the British Provinces and from the United States go thither in crowds; and nearly twenty vessels from the island of Jersey cross the ocean every year to engage in the cod fishery, which yields them great profits.

Anse aux Blanes Sablons and Bradore Bay were the first fishing grounds frequented by Europeans on the coast of Labrador.

When Jacques Cartier made his first voyage to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Basque fishermen were already in the habit of visiting these latitudes every year for the sake of the cod-fishery.

Before the cession of the territories of Hudson's Bay and Newfoundland to England by France, the French carried on an important fishery here.

At a later period, the inhabitants of the English Colonies in America came hither more especially to fish for the spermaceti whale, which at that time was found here in great abundance.

Fishermen from Jersey also formed fishing settlements which are still the most important in the place.

The following is a statement of the fishing establishments at Bradore Bay and Anse aux Blanes Sablons, showing their situation, occupants, revenue, &c., &c.

BRADORE BASIN.

On the largest of the islands forming Bradore Basin are established three families, consisting of 20 persons, who are engaged in the cod and herring fishery. Produce 300 quintals of cod.

" 150 barrels of herrings.

BRADORE BAY.

Mr. Louis Jones has a permanent seal-fishery at the head of Bradore Bay which yields him annually from 200 to 300 seals.

At Jones' point is situated the permanent fishery of Mr. Randall Jones, which is one of the most productive on the coast, and yields annually from 600 to 800 seals.

Mr. Jones is also engaged with his sons in the herring and cod-fishery.

Produce 200 quintals of cod.

" 300 barrels of herrings.

Population—30 inhabitants.

ANSE DES DUNES.

Mr. Louis Labadie is owner of a seal fishing station here, which yields from 250 to 300 seals annually, besides which he takes 60 quintals of cod.

At Pointe à la Barque two of his sons are engaged at a sealing station which yields them from 50 to 80 seals every spring. The population is 18.

LONG POINT.

Mr. Philip Le Brocq is owner of an excellent seal fishery station at Long Point, which yields him annually from 300 to 500 seals. Four families are settled a little higher up, and are engaged in fishing for salmon, seal, and cod. The population is 24. The produce of their fishing was 160 seals, 400 quintals of cod, 10 barrels of salmon, and 200 barrels of herring.

PETIT HAVRE.

1. Cod fishing station belonging to Messrs Voutier and Lefebvre, employing 15 vessels and 45 men.

Produce of the fishery : 2200 quintals cod.

20 barrels oil.

200 barrels herring.

They are also owners of two vessels which carry their cod fish to Europe.

2. Cod fishing station belonging to captain Syvret employs nine boats and men.

Produce of the fishery 1400 quintals of cod.

" " 11 barrels of oil.

" " 100 barrels of herring.

Captain Syvret conveys his fish to Europe in his own vessel.

3. Captain Nicholson's fishery station.

He employs nine men and four fishing boats.

Produce of the fishery 400 quintals of cod.

" " 210 barrels of herring.

Captain Nicholson owns a schooner of 70 tons in which he sends his fish to New Brunswick.

L'ANSE AUX BLANCS SABLONS.

POINT AU POT.

Mr. Martin Parent is owner at this place of a stationary seal fishery, which yields him, annually, from 160 to 300 seals, besides 25 barrels of herring.

Mr. Thomas Lavallée is owner of a cod fishing station, which yields 250 quintals of cod and 100 barrels of herring.

FOND DE L'ANSE.

Mr. Phillip LeBrocq is owner of a cod fishery here in which he employs fourteen fishing boats and forty-five men.

The average yield is 1750 quintals of cod, 4 tons of oil and 350 barrels of herring.

Mr. LeBrocq owns a barque of 200 tons burthen in which he sends his fish to the European Market.

WOOD ISLAND.

Messrs. Le Boutillier and Brothers own a flourishing fishing establishment here, which gives occupation to seventy men and nineteen boats.

Yield of the fishery 2400 quintals of cod.

" " 24 barrels of oil.

" " 250 barrels of herring.

South of Wood Island is a stationary seal fishery belonging to Messrs. Le Boutillier which brings them in from 150 to 200 seals annually.

Total population of the north coast from Godbout River to Anse aux Blancs Sablons, 1225.

The number of fishing vessels belonging to the inhabitants of the north-coast is 300.

Quantity of fish, &c., caught by the inhabitants of the north-coast :

Cod,	33,060 quintals at	\$3 per quintal	.....	\$99,180
Herring,	2,235 barrels at	\$4 per barrel	.....	8,940
Mackerel	700 " at	\$10 " "	.....	7,000
Salmon,	1,200 " at	\$18 " "	.....	21,600
Trout,	200 " at	\$10 " "	.....	2,000
Cod fish oil,	300 " at	\$30 " "	.....	9,000
Seals,	5,730 each worth	\$6	.....	34,380
Peltry	.....			4,000
				<u>\$186,100</u>

I do not include in this statement the value of the furs which the Hudson's Bay Company purchase from the Indians of the different trading posts on that coast.

Those furs, consisting of Otter, Mink and Fox skins, are worth several thousand pounds.

STATEMENT showing the situation of the fishing stations on the South Shore of the River St. Lawrence, the number of Vessels employed, and the quantity and value of the fish taken, furnished by Mr. Michel Lespérance, owner of the fishing station at Grand Etang.

MONT LOUIS BAY.

Produce of 20 boats :

3000 quintals of cod,	worth	.....	\$9,000
20 barrels of mackerel	"	.....	240
100 " of herring	"	.....	300
50 " of halibut	"	.....	200
80 " of cod fish oil,	worth	.....	2,112
			<hr/>
			\$11,852

MAGDALEN RIVER.

Produce of 10 boats :

1500 quintals of cod,	worth	.....	\$4,500
20 barrels of mackerel	"	.....	240
50 " of herring	"	.....	150
100 " of halibut	"	.....	400
25 " of salmon	"	.....	400
25 " of trout	"	.....	250
40 " of cod fish oil,	worth..... ..	.....	1,056
			<hr/>
			\$6,996

GRANDE VALLÉE.

Produce of 32 boats :

4800 quintals of cod,	worth	\$14,400
200 barrels of herring	"	600
80 " of mackerel	"	960
100 " of halibut	"	400
25 " of trout	"	250
128 " of cod fish oil,	worth	3,379.20
		<hr/>
		\$19,989.20

CHLORYDORMA.

Produce of 16 boats :

2400 quintals of cod,	worth	\$7,200
20 barrels of mackerel	"	240
80 " of herring	"	240
30 " of halibut	"	120
64 " of cod fish oil,	worth	1,689.60
		<hr/>
		\$9,489.60

POINTE SÈCHE.

Produce of 12 boats :

1800 quintals of cod,	worth	\$5400
20 barrels of mackerel,	worth	240
60 do of herring,	do	180
30 do of halibut,	do	120
48 do of cod fish oil,	do	1267 20
		<hr/>
		\$7207 20

GRAND ETANG.

Produce of 22 boats :

3300 quintals of cod,	worth	\$9900
40 barrels of mackerel,	worth	480
100 do of herring,	do	300
25 do of halibut,	do	100
25 do of trout,	do	250
76 do of cod fish oil,	do	2006 40
24 do of cod liver oil,	worth	1584
		<hr/>
		\$14620 40

ANSE A VALEAU.

Produce of six boats :

1350 quintals of cod,	worth	\$4050
20 barrels of mackerel,	worth	240
50 do of herring,	do	150
20 do of halibut,	do	80
36 do of cod oil,	do	950 40
		<hr/>
		\$5470 40

PETIT CAP.

Produce of six boats :

900 quintals of cod, worth.....	\$2700
15 barrels of mackerel, worth.....	180
20 do of herring, do	60
30 do of halibut, do	120
24 do of cod oil, do	633 60
	<hr/>
	\$3963 60

LITTLE FOX RIVER.

Produce of ten boats :

1500 quintals of cod, worth.....	\$4500
40 barrels of mackerel, worth.....	480
86 do of herring, do	108
20 do of halibut, do	80
40 do of cod oil, do	1056
	<hr/>
	\$6224

GREAT FOX RIVER.

Produce of fifty boats :

7500 quintals of cod, worth.....	\$22500
70 casks of mackerel, worth.....	840
200 do of herring, do	600
40 do of halibut, do	160
200 do of cod oil, do	5280
	<hr/>
	\$29380

L'ANSE AUX GRIFFONS.

Produce of thirty boats :

4,500 quintals of cod, worth	\$13,500
70 do of mackerel, worth	840
100 do of herring, do	300
25 do of halibut, do	100
120 do of cod oil, do	3,168
	<hr/>
	\$17,908

ANSE A LA LOUISE.

Produce of ten boats :

1,500 quintals of cod, worth	\$4,500
30 barrels of mackerel, worth	360
20 do of herring, do	60
10 do of halibut, do	40
40 do of cod oil, do	1,056
	<hr/>
	\$6,016

CAP DES ROSIERS.

Produce of fifteen boats :

2,250 quintals of cod, worth	\$6,750
50 barrels of mackerel, worth	600
30 do of herring, do	90
15 do of halibut, do	69
60 do of cod oil, do	1,584
	<hr/>
	\$9,984

Total number of fishing boats	242
Total quantity of codfish quintals	37,300
do herring barrels	1,046
do mackerel do	495
do salmon do	25
do halibut do	495
do codfish oil do	700
do trout do	75
Total value.....	\$148,830,40

I think it right to remark that I entertain the same opinion as Mr. L'Esperance and others who have visited the lower part of the River St. Lawrence : That if roads were opened between the different settlements, so as to enable the inhabitants to penetrate and settle in the interior of the country, we should shortly see the south shore of the river well settled, and the produce of the fisheries more than doubled.

TABLE shewing the value of the exports and imports, and amount of revenue at the three Canadian Ports in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Ports.	Year.	Exportation.	Importation.	Revenue.
CASPE.....	1855	\$153092	\$59608	\$4540
	1856	176712	63836	4504
	1857	188208	82432	7236
NEW CARLISLE	1855	\$139032	\$114320	\$8704
	1856	145884	118232	10112
	1857	181416	117876	9480
AMHERST.....	1855	\$61288	\$29600	\$1492
	1856	82952	34212	1368
	1857	140432	35236	1720

TABLE shewing the total value of exports at the Three Ports of Gaspé, New Carlisle and Amherst, for the years 1855, 1856 and 1857.

1855.	1856.	1857.
\$353412	\$405528	\$514056

FOR THE YEAR 1856.

TABLE shewing the quantity of fish exported from the Ports of Gaspé, New Carlisle and Amherst. (Magdalen Islands.)

DRIED FISH.						
Ports.	Quintals.	Value.	Exported to Great Britain.	To the N. American Colonies.	To the United States.	To Foreign Countries.
Gaspé.....	52643	\$143160	\$10032	\$12036	\$3648	\$109440
New Carlisle.....	47434	92576	6100	694	2504	83276
Amherst.....	13614	28480	.....	27680	800	.....
\$	113691	264216	16132	40410	6952	192716

FOR THE YEAR 1856.

TABLE shewing the quantity of fish exported from the ports of Gaspé, New Carlisle and Amherst. (Magdalen Islands.)—Continued.

FISH IN BARRELS.—(Saumuré.)						
Ports.	Barrels.	Value.	Exported to Great Britain.	To the N. American Colonies.	To the United States.	To Foreign Countries.
Gaspé.....	560	\$ 4508	\$787	\$1289	\$ 2432	.....
New Carlisle.....	4684	12623	629	2421	10573	.....
Amherst.....	18190	42906	.....	34700	8206	.....
\$	23344	61037	1316	38410	21211	.....

\$6,750
600
90
69
1,584
\$9,984

242
37,300
1,046
495
25
495
700
75
.. \$148,830,40

as Mr. L'Espérance : The
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Revenue.
\$4540
4504
7236
\$8704
10112
9480
\$1492
1368
1720

FRESH FISH.

Port.	Value.	To the British North American Colonies.
New Carlisle.....	\$2433	2433

FISH OIL.

Ports.	Gallons.	Value.	Exported to Great Britain.	To the British North American Colonies.	To the United States.	To Foreign Countries.
Gaspé.....	5638	\$5100	.....	\$7786	\$5051	.....
New Carlisle.....	10901	6673	5886	.....	709	.....
Amherst	17242	7994	.....	.....	.....	.....
\$	33781	19767	5886	7786	5820	.....

To Pierre Fortin, Esquire, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the district of Gaspé, and Commander of the Provincial Schooner "La Canadienne."

The humble petition of the undersigned, members of the Municipal Council of the township of Fox, and others,

HUMBLY REPRESENTS,

That a party of fanatics excited and authorised, as they declare, by John de St. Croix, Esquire, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, have threatened, and continue to threaten the said councillors, that in the event of their assembling to deliberate on public business, they will turn them out and beat them without mercy.

That fearing for their lives they are prevented from meeting for the discharge of their municipal duties.

That under such circumstances, the undersigned members of the said council, deemed it incumbent on them to depute their mayor to the chief town of the county, to solicit from the authorities aid and an armed force to enable them to hold their sessions without let or hindrance, but that their application was unsuccessful; and they were informed that the position of affairs at the said chief town was the same as their own, for want of a public force.

That your petitioners further beg to state that one of their officers was recently ill-treated, beaten, and kicked, by various persons inhabitants of Fox River, while in the discharge of his duties, and entrusted with assessment accounts.

That the said officer on applying to a magistrate, obtained a warrant for the apprehension of one of the delinquents, but the warrant could neither be served, nor the delinquent arrested and brought to justice; 30 or 40 men having assembled at his house, armed with guns, sticks, pikes, and other dangerous weapons, and with frightful yells, prevented his arrest.

That your petitioners are not only exposed to the grievous and continual insults of riotous persons, but are also in time of need, denied the protection of the tribunals, appointed guardians of the public peace, whose functions appear to have been in abeyance in this county for many years, through the neglect of the persons appointed to administer and enforce the laws.

That your petitioners, the said councillors, have been unable to assemble as a body, prior to the departure of their chairman, fearing they would be murdered.

That they have witnessed with much gratification and pleasure the arrival of "La Canadienne," the mere appearance of which has hitherto caused the law to be respected in every quarter she has visited, and they beg to solicit the assistance of an armed force, and your presence in your capacity of magistrate in order that the disturbers of the public peace may be brought to justice, and suitable means be adopted to ensure respect to the laws.

Fox River.

(Signed,)

G. Lavergne, Mayor,
F. L. Parant, Councillor,
Jacques Bond, "
Isaac Bond, "
Ed. English, "
Gilbert Samuel, "
N. Bernier, S. T. E.
Chs. Parant, Merchant,
D. Cloutier, Merchant's Clerk.

Witness,

JOHN CREGG, Sect. Treas.,
C. M. T. F.

CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF BONAVENTURE.

At a general quarterly meeting of the municipal council of the County of Bonaventure, held in Her Majesty's Court House at New Carlisle in the said County, on Wednesday, 9th day of September, 1857, agreeably to the provisions of the Lower Canada Municipal and Road Act of 1857, at which meeting there were present,—

His Worship J. R. Hamilton, Chairman.

Messrs. McPherson,

McGee,

Ladge,

Fellar,

Landry, and

Cavanagh, mayors of different Townships in the said municipality, and forming a quorum of the said council, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted ;

Resolved, That this council feel themselves called upon to express their satisfaction, and that of the inhabitants, at having a government vessel to protect the fisheries on this coast, and on the north shore ; and this council has pleasure in perceiving that the government kept the dearest interest of this county in view in making choice, to put the fishery laws in force, of Pierre Fortin, Esquire, who possesses all the necessary qualifications for so important a post, and who to this day has performed his duty in a manner most satisfactory to the inhabitants of this coast, where fisheries abound.

Resolved, That His Worship the Chairman do transmit a copy of the preceding resolutions to Mr. Fortin.

Adopted unanimously.

(Signed,)

J. R. HAMILTON,
Chairman.

Office of the County Council,

New-York 9 sept. 1857.

L. S.

Witness J. G. LeBEL,
Secretary of County Council,
Bonaventure.

EXTRACT from a letter from John G. Fox, Esquire, collector of customs at the Magdalen Islands, addressed to P. Fortin, and dated 20th November, 1857.

I believe you are already acquainted with the number of vessels engaged in the seal fishery, and the quantity they take. Therefore, it is unnecessary for me to repeat it here. I will confine myself to telling you that the number exported (from the Province) is about 6,200. I may say that about 10,000 seal are taken at sea and on the ice along the shore.

The quantity of dried cod exported was about 12,000 quintals. Salt fish, herring and mackerel, 59,600 barrels ; fish oil 11,200 gallons.

You must not lose sight of the fact that this estimate does not include fish sent coastwise to Quebec and Montreal. The value of the fish, oil, and skins will reach \$160,000.

About 6,000 barrels of salt fish have been exported to the United States.

The number of arrivals up to the present date is 154—of departures 180—exclusive of coasting vessels.

(Signed,) J. FOX,
Collector of Customs.

Port Amherst, Magdalen Islands.

FORMATION OF ARTIFICIAL OYSTER-BEDS ON THE CANADIAN COAST, IN THE LOWER ST. LAWRENCE, AND IN THE GULF.

We have no oyster-beds on our coast.

We are indebted to Caraquette, Bouctouche, and several other places on the coast of New Brunswick and of Prince Edward's Island for our supply of Gulf oysters, and to New York for our New York Bay oysters.

Oyster beds yield great profits to those who work them. From the earliest ages this fishery has been carried on, and where they did not exist naturally, they have been artificially introduced.

It is said that a Roman, named Sergius Orator, was the inventor of artificial oyster-beds, and Licinius Crassus was engaged in the cultivation of oyster-beds, not only for his own use, but for the sake of the great profits they yielded.

The English oysters are celebrated at the present time for their excellent flavour, as they were in the time of the Romans; and as the natural beds were not sufficient to supply the great cities, it became necessary to make artificial beds, which have succeeded very well nearly everywhere.

Near Colchester, artificial oyster beds are formed in the following manner. The spawn adhering to stones, wood, and oyster shells is removed, and thrown into creeks and streams of salt water, where the young are hatched, and in two or three years attain their full size.

Or, small oysters, the size of a sixpence, are caught and deposited in beds in a place accessible by the sea, where they are allowed to remain undisturbed until they reach maturity.

The cheapest and most simple method is that followed at New York Bay, where there have been formed, during several years past, considerable beds of oysters, the produce of which is sent to all parts of America; it is to collect the oysters a short time before they begin to spawn, and to transport them to the place where the artificial bed is to be formed.

It is necessary, as much as possible, to select a bottom similar to that from which the oysters have been removed, and to be careful that the place fixed upon shall be sheltered from the violence of external storms, so that the deposits so made may not be moved by the waves and cast on shore.

In the lower St. Lawrence and on our shores in the Gulf, we have numerous estuaries and openings of rivers where the water is salt, and a great many bays, creeks and places, offering every possible advantage for the formation of artificial oyster beds.

The sea which washes the Canadian coast contains in its bosom a great variety of the finest kinds of fish.

They are cod, of which there are several species,—mackerel, herring, halibut, &c., &c.

In our rivers, we have the king of fish, the salmon, and the trout.

The coast abounds in lobsters.

But we have no oysters.

I propose, then, to form artificial beds of oysters in favourable spots on our coast, as near to Quebec as possible, where our fishermen might go to provide themselves, without being under the necessity of going to the shores of other British Provinces, and at a cheaper rate than at present.

The following is the plan that I propose:—

To authorize the magistrate commanding "La Canadienne" to go and buy at Caraquette or elsewhere, fifty, one hundred or more barrels of oysters, before they begin to spawn, to take them on board the vessel and to go and deposit them at any place which he shall think most favorable.

And this might be done without disturbing in the least degree the performance of the service in which the government schooner is at present engaged.

For when it becomes necessary for the vessel to go to the Bay des Chaleurs, it is easy to stop at Caraquette, which is only about 20 miles from Paspébiac, and to take on board the necessary quantity of oysters to be transported to the Lower St. Lawrence or elsewhere without discontinuing its service of protecting the fisheries.

The sum of six hundred dollars would be more than sufficient to make the first experiments.

The chances of success are very good : for why should we not succeed in making artificial oyster beds, as they do in New York Bay, on the South East coast of the United States, in England, and every where else.

The oysters, as I have already said, are three years in attaining their full size. It is probable that they do not spawn before that age.

But from the time of their attaining maturity they propagate to a prodigious extent.

However if they should be disturbed, and if they were to be taken before the beds were well stocked, it is probable that they would be destroyed before the fishermen had obtained any very great profits from them ; for which reason I think it would be necessary to pass a law, forbidding every one under a very heavy penalty, to fish for oysters or to disturb them in any way, or to do any thing which might injure the increase of the beds, during three years or more, until the oysters were numerous enough in the beds to permit their removal without fear of seeing them diminish.

I hope the government will take this project into their serious consideration, and that I shall be authorised to make the experiment which I suggest.

If I succeed, I shall have added a source of wealth to those we already possess on the coasts of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence ; if my attempts are unproductive, at least they will not have cost the public chest much.

P. FORTIN.

PLAN FOR A SCHOOL OF NAVIGATION ON BOARD " LA CANADIENNE. "

There are in Canada very few sea-going captains who are fit to take charge of a vessel bound for Europe, the East Indies, Australia, or even the West India islands.

According to the information I have been able to procure, there are not in the whole district of Quebec, more than eight or ten sea captains able to navigate a vessel to the ports of the United Kingdom, the United States, and the West Indies so that Quebec ship builders are almost always compelled to send at a great expense for English mariners to take their vessels to Liverpool and to other ports to be sold.

The captains of Canadian vessels are, with very few exceptions merely coasting pilots.

When they wish to make a voyage beyond St. John's, Newfoundland, Halifax, or St. John's, New Brunswick, they are compelled to engage qualified mariners at foreign ports, to navigate their vessels.

It is my opinion, that the want of instructed mariners in Canada is the principal cause why the Canadian navigation of Canadian vessels is confined to voyages between Montreal and Quebec, to a few ports of the lower provinces, to the United States and the West Indies.

The transportation of the produce of the Canadian fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to the European and South American markets is carried on almost entirely by vessels belonging to shippers in the Island of Jersey.

The produce of the West Indies consumed in Canada, is brought to us during the summer, principally in vessels from Nova Scotia; and, during the winter it is taken in United States vessels to Portland and other ports, whence it is brought to us by rail, whilst we often have a number of schooners and brigantines, which lie idle for whole months, because the marines who command them cannot navigate their vessels beyond the ports of the British Provinces already mentioned, for want of the necessary knowledge of the science of navigation.

If we had in Canada a number of well taught sea captains capable of undertaking all sorts of sea voyages, why, since we build vessels cheaper than anywhere else, and since hundreds of young men from this country, who are induced by their natural taste to become sailors, go and engage themselves, for want of employment here, on board United States vessels fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence or which make voyages on the lakes or along the shores of the United States,—why should we not send vessels into all parts of the world, to the whale fishery, or to take to market a portion of the produce of our forests, but especially of our fisheries, the value of which exceeds the sum of six hundred thousand dollars, and which forms the lading of nearly a hundred vessels, and bring back from the West Indies in our own vessels the produce which we require in exchange for our salted and dried fish, our salted provisions, our wood, etc., etc.?

But how shall we give our sailors the necessary instruction in the science of navigation?

By establishing on board some vessel a school of navigation, where the theory and practice of the mariner's art will be taught at the same time.

And the Government Schooner "La Canadienne," the dimensions of which are about the same as those of a war schooner, which generally carries from 40 to 50 hands, might serve as a school vessel, until the number of pupils had increased so as to render it necessary to employ a larger vessel.

To perform the service of protecting the fisheries and the public revenue in the Gulf of St. Lawrence it is necessary to have on board "La Canadienne," a crew including the officers, of twenty-five men.

Well then, let us have on board a master capable of teaching the theory and practice of navigation, and a boatswain to show all the manœuvres and work necessary to be performed on ship board, and we may make up this crew in great measure of young men, who have become pupils on board the schooner.

And as these pupils would not be entitled for their services on board, to so high a rate of remuneration as is usually given to sailors a diminution of expense would follow, which to a certain extent, would counterbalance the increased expenditure, necessary to put this school on a good footing.

I need not add that Government has already in its possession all the necessary nautical instruments.

The pupils should engage to serve for at least one season, under penalty of losing all right to their wages.

We might also, in order to induce the pupils to follow the whole course of instruction, which would last at least three years, keep back a portion of the wages; and this might be returned to them on their obtaining their diploma of sea-captain, in the shape of a prize or bonus, consisting of nautical instruments, marine charts, books of navigation, etc., etc.

The magistrate commanding the Government Schooner, whose duties in the Gulf always leave him some hours to spare every day, might translate into English or French the lessons in navigation, and might also teach the pupils the necessary amount of arithmetic, trigonometry, astronomy, geography, etc., etc.

I think I may venture to say that if a School of Navigation were to be established, in which the young men of this country might, while earning enough

to support themselves during the course of study, learn the theory and practice of the science of navigation, a great number of our most active young men would present themselves for admission, who having once become sea-captains, might take our ships to all ports where good profits may be made, or become ship owners themselves, and might on their own account carry the produce of our forests and our fisheries to foreign markets.

P. FORTIN.

Extract from the Log kept on Board the Government Schooner "La Canadienne," during the season of 1857.

May 7. Left Quebec.

- " 11. Anchored at Malbaie and at Percé. Left Percé.
- " 14. Anchored at House Harbor, and at Amherst Harbour.
- " 21. Left for the Bay of Chaleurs.
- " 22. Arrived at Paspébiac.
- " 23. Left Paspébiac.
- " 24. Anchored in Carleton Road. Left Carleton.
- " 25. Anchored at Paspébiac.
- " 28. Left Paspébiac in a shallop.
- " 29. At Port Daniel.
- " 30. At Cape Cove and at Percé.
- " 31. At Gaspé Basin.

June 1. At Griffin's Cove and at Fox River.

- " 2. At Griffin's Cove and at Gaspé Basin.
- " 3. At Grande Grève.
- " 4. At Point St. Peters and at Percé.
- " 5. Left Percé in the morning and arrived at Paspébiac at night.
- " 7. Left Paspébiac.
- " 9. Arrived at the Magdalen Islands.
- " 14. Left for House Harbor.
- " 15. Anchored at Amherst Harbour.
- " 17. Landed at Grosse Isle.
- " 18. Visited Bryon Island.
- " 19. Landed at Grosse Isle aux Oiseaux.
- " 20. Anchored at Amherst Harbour.
- " 21. Off Magdalen Islands.
- " 22. Left Amherst Harbour for Labrador.
- " 23. Off Magdalen Point and Islands.
- " 24. Anchored at Anse aux Blancs Sablons.
- " 27. Anchored at Bradore Bay.
- " 28, 29, 30. In Bradore Bay.

July. 1, 2, 3, 4. In Bradore Bay.

- " 5. Left Bradore Bay.
- " 7. Anchored at Kegasca.
- " 8. Landed at Natashquan.
- " 9. Anchored at Mingan.
- " 13. Left Mingan for St. John River.

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 e of our forests

FORTIN.

Canadienne,"

t night.

- July, 15. Landed at Grand Etang.
 " 16. Visited Fox River and Griffin's Cove.
 " 17. Anchored in Gaspé Bay.
 " 20. Left Gaspé Bay, landed at Point St. Peters, and anchored at Percé.
 " 21. Left Percé.
 " 22. Anchored in Carleton Road in the morning and at the Mission at 4 p. m.
 " 26. Left the Mission.
 " 27. Anchored in Carleton Road in the morning and at Paspébiac at night.
 " 28. Left Paspébiac.
 " 28. Anchored at Percé ; left for the Magdalen Islands.
 " 30. Anchored in Plaisance Bay.

- Aug. 1. Left for the Etang du Nord.
 " 2. Left Etang du Nord and landed at the Basin.
 " 4. At Amherst Harbour, left for House Harbor.
 " 5. Left the Magdalen Islands, passed by the East point.
 " 7. Anchored in Percé Harbour.
 " 8. Left for the Lower St. Lawrence, landed at Griffin's Cove and at Fox River.
 " 9. At anchor in Griffin's Cove on account of bad weather.
 " 10. Left Griffin's Cove, landed at Grand Etang.
 " 11. Visited the establishments at Grande Vallée and Magdalen River.
 " 13. Landed at Mont Louis.
 " 15. Anchored at 7 h. 30 m. a. m., in the Harbour of Ste. Anne des Monts, left at noon and anchored at 7 p. m., at the Bay of Seven Islands.
 " 18. Left the Bay of Seven Islands, landed at Moisie River.
 " 19. Visited the fishing establishments at Sheldrake River, Thunder River and Magpie Bay.
 " 20. Landed at Griffin's Cove.
 " 21. Landed at Cape Rosier.
 " 22. Arrived at Gaspé Basin.
 " 24. Left Gaspé Basin.
 " 25. Anchored at Percé at 6 a. m., left at 11 a. m., for the Magdalen Islands.
 " 26. Anchored in Plaisance Bay at 10 a. m.
 " 29. Left the Magdalen Islands.
 " 31. Anchored in Paspébiac Harbour in the morning.

- Sept. 1. Visited New Carlisle.
 " 3. Left Paspébiac, anchored at New Carlisle.
 " 4. Left New Carlisle, anchored at Bonaventure and arrived at Carleton at night.
 " 5. Landed at Carleton and visited Dalhousie.
 " 6. Left Carleton at 2 h. 30 m. a. m., anchored in the Grande Rivière at noon, and at Percé at 6 p. m.
 " 7. Left Percé at 11 a. m., for Labrador, doubled the East point of the Island of Anticosti at midnight.
 " 9. Anchored at 3 h. p. m. in l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons.
 " 11. Anchored in Bradore Bay.

Sept. 14. Left Bradore Bay.

- " 15. Landed at the Whale's Head Island.
- " 17. Passed near the Bird Islands.
- " 18. Anchored at Amherst Harbor, visited House Harbour.
- " 20. Anchored in Amherst Harbour.
- " 21. Left the Magdalen Islands.
- " 23. Anchored at 8 a. m. in Carleton Roads.
- " 25. Left Carleton, anchored at Pointe Lacarde.
- " 26. Visited Cross Point and the mission, weighed anchor in the afternoon and in the evening put into Dalhousie.
- " 27. Left Dalhousie and anchored at Carleton at 3. a. m. left Carleton and anchored at Paspébiac.
- " 29. Left New Richmond, anchored at Paspébiac at 9. a. m; visited New Carlisle.
- " 30. Left Paspébiac at 5 a. m., anchored at Port Daniel at 9. a. m; visited the establishments at Grande Rivière at 5. p. m.

Oct. 1. Anchored in the roadstead at Percé at 7. a. m; visited Cape Cove in the afternoon, returned to Percé in the evening.

- " 2. Left Percé at 11 a. m. visited Point St. Pierre; anchored in Gaspé Basin at night.
- " 5. Left Gaspé Basin.
- " 6. Visited Griffin's Cove and Fox River.
- " 8. Landed at Grand Etang and visited the fishery establishments at Chlorydorma.
- " 10. Anchored at 4. p. m. at River Magdalen.
- " 11. Obligated to weigh anchor by stress of weather.
- " 12. Landed at Point St. Pierre, visited the establishments at Malbaie and anchored at Percé in the afternoon.
- " 13. Visited the fishery establishments at Bonaventure Island.
- " 14. Left Percé for the Magdalen Islands.
- " 16. Anchored in the afternoon in Amherst Harbour.
- " 19. Visited the fishery establishments at House Harbour.
- " 20. Left Amherst Harbour, passed the East Point of the Magdalen Islands.
- " 24. Anchored at 8. a. m. in Paspébiac Roads.
Detained here by heavy gales from the east till 1st November,
Visited the fishery establishments.

Nov. 1. Left Paspébiac in the afternoon.

- " 2. Anchored at Percé in the morning; left in the afternoon.
- " 3. Landed at Point St. Pierre.
- " 4. Anchored in Gaspé Basin, left in the afternoon at 3. p. m., doubled Cape Gaspé.
- " 5. Landed in the morning at the light house on the south west point of the Island of Anticosti, steered for Quebec in the afternoon.
- " 7. Passed abreast of the light house at Pointe des Monts at 1. p. m.
- " 8. Anchored in the roadstead at Quebec at 5. p. m.

(Signed,)

P. FORTIN.

The number of minots of grain harvested is 819½
Potatoes 853

Giving in all a harvest of 1672½ minots.

The produce harvested may be classed as follows, according to the kind, quantity, and a rough estimate of value :

Wheat	21	minots	@ \$1 25 ¾	minot	=	\$26 25
Barley	362½	"	@ 0 60 ¾	"	=	217 40
Rye	18	"	@ 0 80 ¾	"	=	14 40
Peas	11	"	@ 1 25 ¾	"	=	13 75
Oats	407	"	@ 0 40 ¾	"	=	162 80
Potatoes	853	"	@ 0 40 ¾	"	=	341 20

Quantity 1,672½ minots.

Value \$775 80

If to these items there be added that of the maple sugar made in the vicinity of the Elgin Road last spring, estimated at 50,000 lbs., and valued at about 5,000 00

The result is a total of \$5,775 80

which these few new settlers have had to divide, for the most part, amongst them. Nevertheless, it seems to me to be well to remark, *en passant*, that out of the number of resident families mentioned above, eight families, having together thirty-three children, were unable to have any share in these bounties of the soil, not having had it in their power to establish themselves in time to be able to profit by them.

No natural casualties injured the crops or disturbed the labours of the settlers in the course of last year; but the difficulties of their position as the first and only settlers, poor and without protection, compelled them to use seed of inferior quality and, therefore, yielding poor returns in comparison with what might have been obtained from seed of good quality.

The recent date of the opening of the Elgin Road for settlement not permitting me to present more ample information, I have reason to believe that the above statistics, shewing actual progress, are such as to prove the importance of the efforts made in favor of colonization.

The inhabitants of the old parishes in the vicinity of the new settlements have shewn a desire to second the efforts of the Government by founding aid societies, which furnish seed grain to the poor settlers. It will readily be seen that, apart from the intrinsic value of the aid thus offered, such benevolent proceedings are calculated to encourage the young settlers, and in fact they shew themselves very grateful for the interest thus felt for them.

Before concluding, I think it may be well to mention that numerous applications for lots on the Taché Road are daily made at my office. I am informed, moreover, that a pretty considerable number of lots in certain Townships, and even some entire Townships, are already occupied by settlers anxious to secure for themselves the possession of the lots of their choice. Other lots, I am assured, are occupied by several settlers at a time, who dispute the title to them with each other. This eagerness, although it is to be regretted and constitutes a source of embarrassment, shows clearly how strong is the desire to colonize and how great the need of acquiring new land among our population in the country parts.

It is notorious that the Taché Road will traverse a spacious territory, having a soil of great fertility, watered by several streams, and covered with a magnificent growth of trees. This territory will become the scene of agricultural and commercial operations extending throughout the whole length of the said Road.

It is equally true that the inhabitants of those Townships which will be ranged along this Grand Trunk of the colonization Roads of the lower St. Lawrence, will find good market for their produce, through the traffic which will unavoidably arise with the numerous lumbering establishments on the River St. John, distant about a day's journey from the Taché Road.

It seems to me to be beyond a doubt that the lands in the townships traversed by the Elgin and Taché Roads will be rapidly bought up by rich settlers, as soon as the pioneers to

whom free grants are made shall have pushed forward a little their work of clearing. In order to meet the demands for land which the opening of these Roads is thus about to create, it will be desirable, it seems to me, in the interest of the settlers, as well as of the Government, to take the necessary measures for effecting the sale of lots situated in the twenty-two townships which the Taché Road is to traverse.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

STANISLAS DRAPEAU,

Agent for the Elgin and Taché Roads.

APPENDIX 30.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Superintendent of Fisheries, for Upper Canada, for the year 1859.

To the Honorable

P. M. VANKOUGHNET, M.L.C.,

Commissioner of Crown Lands,

&c., &c., &c.,

Quebec.

HAMILTON, 31st December, 1859.

SIR,—During the year which has now just ended, I have travelled over every part of the coasts of Lakes Ontario and Erie, for the purpose of leasing the Fishing Stations upon the shores and islands of those Lakes, in obedience to the instructions received from your office under date 18th February, 1859.

These instructions related to the leasing of the Fisheries contiguous to Crown Lands, and to those opposite to private property. I have from time to time transmitted to the Department the results of those visits and my efforts to carry out your instructions. The waters opposite private property were to be leased only when desired by the proprietors or occupants. In reference to such stations, I have already reported my entire want of success in inducing any proprietors to take leases of fishing stations adjacent to their own property; and as others could not land to draw their nets or cure their fish, it would be impossible to get them to take leases.

In my efforts to lease Fisheries connected with Crown properties, I have been almost equally unsuccessful, owing to a variety of circumstances to which I have called your attention in the various letters which I have communicated to your Department. The chief of these obstacles have been :

Firstly.—A combination amongst the fishermen neither to lease the fisheries themselves nor to allow others to do so. These places are Burlington Beach, Long Point, Turkey Point, Presqu' Isle, Cape Vesey, Cobourg, and perhaps some others.

Secondly.—The assumption, in most cases perhaps a pure assumption, to gain time, that twenty-one years occupation has given them a title even against the Crown. The fishermen at Burlington Beach, near Hamilton and Cape Vesey, in the County of Prince Edwards, have set me at defiance on this point. The Crown property at Cape Vesey contains 1260 acres, occupied by eight families of squatters, under the influence of Henry L. Wingfield.

Thirdly.—In some places leases would no doubt have been taken, had not the parties felt that there was an uncertainty about the security of their tenure, fearing, as they did, that lawless fishermen would with impunity have encroached upon their stations.

Fourthly.—Occasionally, too, I find an unwillingness to bind themselves by leases, from apprehension that the fisheries would fail; and that they were failing in many places from the reckless manner in which the fish are caught and killed, as well as from the unreasonable time of taking them, I cannot deny. In obedience to your instructions of the 18th February, I proceeded to the most important portion of the fisheries, from the extreme end of the Point opposite to the False Ducks, and from thence along the Lake shore to the

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Wellington Beach; during my progress, I made an estimate of the value of the differen-
fishing stations, after first determining the limits or boundaries of each lot. In all cases, I
regret to say, the sums offered by the occupants prove to be below my estimate of their
value, and, in accordance with my instructions, I beg herewith to hand you my report of
the same. The reasons advanced by the fishermen generally, as a justification for their
low proposals, has its origin in the apparent uncertainty of the *catch*, which I find has
greatly fallen off in this and other stations, from 1857.

In my calculations of their value I have duly considered this, and I have fortified my
own judgment by availing myself of all the local information to be had from the residents
near the stations, whose opinions I should rely upon, as they have no interest in the matter
either one way or the other.

You will observe by the offers made from the Wellington Beach, the statement of
which has been enclosed, a revenue of \$334 has been realized from twelve stations.

One William Young has made a tender of \$500 for the whole Beach, consisting of
fifteen stations, which I accepted conditionally, that if I failed in obtaining that amount
from the parties in possession, he should have it. When this circumstance became known
to the fishermen, it produced much excitement amongst them, which induced Mr. Young
to withdraw his tender, and I was thus left to deal with them as best I could, and succeed-
ed in realizing the above amount.

At the sale of lands advertised to take place at Simcoe on the 31st ult., I offered the
different fishing stations around Long Point at public auction, and, notwithstanding there
was a large and respectable attendance of the inhabitants generally interested in the fish-
eries, I had no offer made me equal to the upset price, and, consequently, no leases were
granted.

Immediately after the sale, however, I was offered by Mr. Buckwell a sum of \$300
for the exclusive right of fishing on the frontage of the Townships of Walsingham, Char-
lotteville, Woodhouse, Walpole and Rainham, with all the privileges the Fishery Act of
1858 conferred (as per his letter of the 31st ult. herewith.)

The general depression of trade, aggravated no doubt by the disastrous failure of crop
last year, as well as the small catch of fish during the same period compared with former
years, render it difficult to get a fair average value this year for the fisheries. The fisher-
men advance all these causes as a justification for offering such small rentals, expressing
themselves, however, at the same time willing to pay more, if this season should close more
prosperously than the last. While I admit that these objections to pay the upset price
are entitled to every consideration, I beg also to state that I am satisfied the fishermen have
combined together for the purpose of preventing fair competition when the stations shall
be offered for sale by public auction.

On my return from Simcoe to this City, from the numerous communications I found
at my office connected with the Burlington Beach Fisheries, I decided on remaining for a
few days to lay out the different stations along the said Beach.

As in all former cases, the upset price made by me of their value (which is \$30 each
station, being twenty-two in all on the beach) is more than the fishermen's offer, their pro-
posal being \$20 only each lot.

There yet remain but two courses to be adopted,—one will be to accept the tender
offered at \$10—limiting, however, their privilege to the use of sixty-six feet on the shore
from high-water mark, and that only for fishing purposes. If this rule is adopted, all the
land on the Beach in the rear of this reservation can readily be leased for an equal amount,
if not more, or sold, as it is now in a high state of cultivation, and through this means a
fair value secured to the Crown. This course appears now necessary, or some other that
will be the means of convincing the occupants of those stations that, while you have
instructed me to treat them with liberality, the right of title by the Crown will be vindica-
ted.

Since I left Toronto on the 17th July, I was assiduously engaged among the fishermen
on Burlington Beach, and along the frontier as far as Niagara, endeavouring by every
possible means to induce them to comply with the provisions of the law, to rely on the
liberality and justice of the Government, and accept leases under the Act without trouble
or coercion.

I was met by the fishermen with complaints of injustice and objections to the conditions and wording of the leases; and at Burlington Beach I have been opposed by combinations of the fishermen, who had come to mutual agreement of \$10 each for fishing stations, with full possession of the ground they now occupy, such proposals being inadmissible.

I have therefore been compelled to adopt the only alternative by which any fair rental can be reasonably hoped for—that is, to put the several stations up at public competition, agreeably to your instructions. In pursuance of this plan I advertised for tenders for the stations on Burlington Beach, to be opened on Monday, the 25th July.

I delayed the adoption of this course in the hope that a sense of their own interests would in the end induce them to accept leases, and from a desire to relieve you from constant and frivolous applications to be admitted to continue their destructive practice of using fine mesh nets, thereby destroying the young fish in immense quantities.

Another obstacle to the profitable leasing of the Fisheries is found in the refusal of some of the parties owning land on the waters edge to allow a landing place to the fishermen, who might otherwise be willing to lease the stations in front of such properties.

I have endeavored to be as lenient with the fishermen as I possibly could, consistent with my duty to your Department, believing that the best course was to render the measure as palatable as possible, to introduce its provisions gradually, and to try to get the parties to accommodate themselves to its enactments, without exciting their prejudice against it. The introduction of such a measure as the Fishery Act, affecting the mode of livelihood of a large number of people hitherto unrestricted in their operations by Acts of Parliament, requires a good deal of careful management and forbearance, to prevent the excitement of feelings hostile to the Government and the Law; and it has ever been my study to convince the fishermen that it would really be to their interests to yield a ready submission to the provisions of the Act.

On my recent visit to Sarnia, in the prosecution of my duties as Superintendent of the Fisheries, I ascertained that the most valuable part of the fishing grounds bordering on Lake Huron and the River St. Clair, was held by Mr. Samuel Hitchcock, under a lease from parties who purchased it in July, 1856,—a portion of the Ordnance Lands at Sarnia—from the Home Government.

I have already enclosed you a copy of the memorial of the conveyance referred to, which I obtained from the Registrar at Sarnia, for your inspection.

The fishing-grounds covered by Mr. Hitchcock's lease are by far the most valuable on Lake Huron south of the Fishing Islands. Jan. 1857 they yielded 2,800 barrels, which, at Detroit market value, \$5 a barrel, were worth \$14,000. Mr. Hitchcock pays a rental of \$600 a year.

On a visit to Amherstburg I examined Bois Blanc Island alluded to, and found Mr. James Cousins preparing for his Fall Fishing. On the Island there are two good stations both occupied by him. In the year 1857 he acknowledges to have taken on it 120 barrels White Fish, at \$10, - - - - - \$1200 00
and 15 barrels Herrings at \$5 - - - - - 75 00

\$1275 00

He now informs me that the fishing has since greatly fallen off, which I believe to be the case, being corroborated by disinterested parties, but is still a valuable fishery.

On my arrival in Windsor I waited on Colonel Prince to close with him for a lease of Turkey and Peach Islands, in terms of his tender under date 15th ult., for Turkey Island fishery, with one chain of land around the Island, \$25 per annum, and for Peach \$50. He has written to you for an extension of his lease to five or nine years, which I did not feel myself authorized to grant, but which has since been closed.

I then proceeded along the coast from Sandwich to Amherstburg, a distance of 18 miles, visiting the fishermen, who are principally French Canadians. I offered them leases covering the water in front of their lots, about the width of one hundred acres, taking their side-lines for a guide in the water, for \$5 per year.

After having disposed of Bois Blanc Island of which I had the honor of transmitting a detailed report under yesterday's date. I had to return to Windsor, not being able to reach the Islands in this vicinity owing to the roughness of the weather and the agitation of the Lake, though three different attempts were unsuccessfully made to reach these

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islands with a boat and crew; my time, however, was not lost, having met the principal parties tendering for the Fisheries on them, to whom I have granted leases, but afterwards they totally declined to complete them by failing to furnish the necessary securities.

Point Pelée (Main) consists of a long narrow neck of land projecting into Lake Erie from the front of the Township of Mersea in the County of Essex, for a distance of ten miles, and supposed to contain 1,000 acres, which has been settled upon by Squatters many years since, numbering ten families, who are desirous to purchase their respective locations from the Government at a fair price—say 6s. 3d. per acre, and expressed their willingness to pay a yearly rental for the Fisheries, lying opposite to their respective lots, if the Government would guarantee to them a title for their improvements, of \$10 per year.

I endeavoured, under the circumstances, to persuade them to take leases at once with one chain of the Beach for fishing purposes, under a promise on my part to recommend to the Government to cause a survey to be made allotting to each their respective lots, for which they are prepared to pay a reasonable price for their possession to secure it in fee simple.

While discussing this subject they informed me that they had been, since the year 1852, subject to claims for rent preferred against them, both for the Fisheries and the land, by Mr. James Paxton of Amherstburg, also a Fisherman, who exercised ownership under a lease from the Crown Lands Department, bearing date 1852, at the yearly rental of \$50, who is still desirous to continue that lease at the said rental, including land and the fisheries. I was not, however, aware of this fact until he applied to me for a lease of the Fisheries also; but he is not willing to give more than the original \$50 per year, including both privileges. I offered him the Fisheries, however, at the sum mentioned, with a chain of the Beach, which he declined without including the land. I learned besides from himself personally that he is in arrears under his former lease for \$350, say seven years at \$50—\$350.

The said James Paxton informs me that he has recently effected a definite arrangement with the Government for the purchase of Fighting Island, situate in the Detroit River, and that in his purchase he has secured the right of fishing thereat, in consideration of the excess value upon it by the Commissioners.

By reference to my communication of the 2nd July last, you will perceive the principle upon which I have proceeded from the beginning. Every means in my power has been used to secure compliance with the provisions of the Act, but with partial success; and it now seems that I have carried mildness and forbearance to the extreme, and if the Act is not to remain a dead letter and the Government and their Agents set at defiance, it is necessary to adopt a different course. I despair of leasing Burlington Beach, and other important Fisheries, unless some means can be devised to secure quiet men who may be disposed to lease them in the enjoyment of their rights. We are completely at the mercy of this class of lawless men.—I find it impossible to get any of the inhabitants living in the neighborhood to inform against the Fishermen, not, however, from any want of interest in having the provisions of the Act carried out, but from fear of the consequences to themselves and property; and an Agent whom I employed to inform me of any violation of the Act was severely beaten by them. Under these circumstances it has been quite impossible with the limited powers bestowed upon me to carry out my instructions, or bring to justice the violators of the law.

Having detailed in the communications, to which allusion has been made above, my proceedings during the past year in leasing the Fisheries on the Lakes and Rivers, and in securing the erection of Fish Ways over the Mill Dams on the streams most frequented.

The subjects of chief importance for my attention during the ensuing year, will be the completion of the Fishing Stations, securing the erection of the Migration or Fish Ways, and the prevention of fishing, both at the improper seasons, and by the objectionable means which have proved so destructive to the fish.

I have hinted at some of the difficulties which I have met with in attempting to carry out the first of these measures—the leasing of the Fisheries, and shall, at the close of this Report, suggest the means, which it appears to me necessary to adopt for effecting this important object. As to the second—the attaching of Fish Ways to the Mill Dams on the streams of chief resort by the fish.—I shall also have something to add to what has been given in my previous Reports. In attempting to put into effect this portion of the law, I have been so entirely unsuccessful, that I plainly perceive that more rigorous measures must be adopted.

In reference to the time during which the several kinds of fish may, with due regard to their propagation, be caught, as well with regard to the manner of taking them, I shall feel it my duty to recommend some changes.

The immense value of the Fisheries of our great Lakes, as well as of the innumerable smaller bodies of water which so thickly dot the map of Upper Canada, and of the streams which flow into them, will certainly justify the use of every means necessary to protect them from destruction, and to bring them back to their original prolificness. Many of the rivers which once abounded with the choicest fish, are now entirely or almost forsaken. Many of the streams running into Lake Ontario, were once the resort of myriads of Salmon, (the Salmon proper from the Ocean.) I have seen them from 1812 to 1815, swarming the rivers so thickly, that they were thrown out with a shovel, and even with the hand. Now it is rare to see one in those same waters, and the question occurs, is it not possible to entice them back to their favorite haunts? One cannot but feel deeply at the loss—the calamity I may say,—which we have sustained in the destruction of these noble fish. After all the reckless and destructive agencies which have been used, the great numbers which are still found in some parts of the Lakes show their vitality, and give us the best guarantee that no very expensive means need be used for their preservation.

The Lake Huron Fisheries, in 1856, yielded 27,037½ barrels (and I am certain this was far below the true estimate), or say, at 120 fish to the barrel, 3,244,520 fish. The catch, too, in Lake Ontario is still abundant, in some cases even prodigious. In my Report for 1857, mention is made of 47,700 White Fish at a haul—say nearly 400 barrels,—taken at Wellington Beach. At Burlington Beach, during 1856, there were taken 1,900,000 herrings and 86,400 white fish; at Port Credit, 470,000 fish, two-thirds of them being the Salmon, and at other fishing stations on Lake Ontario, 200,000 to 300,000 fish. The entire catch, according to the lowest estimate for 1856, amounted in value to \$500,000. Yet, how little has been done to protect and develop these literally inexhaustible riches.

Of the abundance and quantity of the fish of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, nearly the same remarks may be made. The entire coasts of the British portion of the great lakes and St. Lawrence, within Upper Canada, extend over some 5000 miles, most of them abounding in Salmon-Trout, White Fish and Herrings, besides a great variety of the less numerous kinds, as the Maskinongé, Sturgeon, Pike, Pickerel, Bass (black, white, and yellow), speckled Trout, Chub, Perch, Suckers (black and white), Mullet, &c. This is exclusive of the almost innumerable inland lakes, the largest of which, Lake Simcoe, is 40 miles by 50; these, literally swarm with a great variety of choice fish. Nor have I included in this estimate any of the large and valuable rivers, tributaries of the lakes and of the St. Lawrence.

I have also sought information from parties who have manifested much interest in the protection of our valuable Fisheries in reference to the natural haunts of the Salmon and White Fish, and their habits, &c. I beg to refer you to a letter from J. Y. Leslie, Esq., Collector of Customs, Brighton, which will be found appended to this Report.

The leasing of the Fisheries to prudent and responsible men would be one corrective measure, and it would, too, have the effect of ridding certain localities of a reckless and lawless class of men who are doing their best to depopulate our waters.

There is a subject of great importance, in reference to the Salmon Fisheries of Lake Ontario, which, I have long thought, should have been brought under your notice. It is the existence, in Lower Canada, of various kinds of standing (brush) weirs, or a kind of fish traps, all along the south side of the St. Lawrence from St. Thomas, Montmagny, to Three Rivers. Those which remain along the shore the year round prevent the Salmon from ascending the river, and are doubtless one of the chief causes of the scarcity of Salmon in Lake Ontario compared with former years. I have, therefore, recommended their removal. In their place, the fishermen would still have the use of the gill nets.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Seines may be used from the first of September until the twenty-fifth of October. A provision of this nature is all important, for, as the law is at present, great numbers of fish are swept from their spawning ground while depositing their ova.
2. Gill nets may be used at all seasons in deep water in the open Lakes. The nets to be rated at a half cent per square yard. No gill net be allowed to be set nearer than two miles of seining ground.

3. Inspectors of fish should be appointed at all the stations.—This would not incur any expense to the Government, and would be of immense advantage to the fishermen, by securing the packing of their fish in good condition for the market. Such inspectors would also make efficient Overseers of the several fishing stations, and would be a restraint upon the lawless fishermen, and reliable sources of information on all points touching their stations.

4. A small steamer to visit the Fishing Stations.

5. Some rivers, say two, entering Lake Ontario to be set apart as nurseries for fish, in which no fishing should be allowed except with a hook and line.

Our object being to restore the fish to their original abundance, no means necessary to bring about this much desired object ought to be left untried.

I would recommend the Rivers Credit and Moira as the two to be set apart for this purpose.

6. The spear in all cases to be disallowed.

7. The word "Pickerel" should be inserted in the 36th section of the Act, and the word "Pike" in both the 35th and 36th section, and the word "black" to be struck out of the 35th section.

8. The penalty imposed in section 42 of the Act should be increased to £5 for the lowest, and £40 or £50 for the highest.—A fine of only two pounds, as at present, seems to exercise no check over the fishermen, for they can afford to pay such a small fine. I would rather see the fine £10 and £50.

9. That the 73rd section of the Fishery Act, 22 Vic., Cap. 86, be repealed.

My reasons for wishing this are, first : that our markets in Hamilton and Toronto, (and I presume other markets also,) are flooded with fish after close time here, and especially about the middle of November, and when I have attempted to fine the parties for it, others have come forward and sworn the fish were taken in Lake Huron, although in many cases I have been certain that they were caught in Ontario. This being the spawning time, the fish are brought to the market with the ova running from them.

If close time be not applied to Lakes Huron and Superior, fish will soon become as scarce in those lakes as in Lake Erie. Lake Ontario, to which great numbers of fish migrate every year from the Ocean, has not felt the effects of this devastating system to the same extent as Lake Erie. Besides, the fishermen of Lake Ontario and Erie complain of the partiality shown to the fishermen of the Upper Lakes.

10. That the 23rd section of the Fishery Act be amended to read as follows :—" It shall not be lawful to fish with any kind of net or seine in Burlington Bay, nor Dundas Marsh, nor in the inlets or waters connected therewith."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

JOHN McCUAIG,

Supt. of Fisheries for Upper Canada.

BRIGHTON, 31st December, 1859.

SIR,—In reporting the proceedings of a meeting of fishermen held in Brighton last year, I took occasion to advert in a cursory manner to the seine as an engine for catching White Fish, and to express an opinion that it would ultimately have to give place to the gill net. I now beg to revert to the subject ; but first, let me observe that it is much to be regretted that the natural history of the White Fish of the Canadian Lakes has not been sufficiently studied, and enough of facts recorded to make us even reasonably acquainted with their habits. In the meantime, and until the subject is taken up by some competent person and thoroughly and scientifically investigated (and it will repay the trouble), we ought to apply what little knowledge we already possess in the practical endeavour to render the mode of fishing the Lakes as little likely to injure the permanent supply as possible, instead of which the plan generally adopted will eventually render White Fish as rare as Sea Salmon in the Lakes, and enhance the price to such a degree that they will be found only on the tables of the wealthy.

The White Fish, I believe, remain the greater part of the year in deep water towards the middle of the Lakes, but periodically frequent certain spots favourably situated for depositing their spawn, in a sandy or gravelly bottom in comparatively shallow water, where the *ova* are exposed to a certain degree of light which appears necessary to the vivifying process, and also to the influence of a higher temperature, which likewise seems requisite to the development of the first stages of embryo life.

THE SPAWNING GROUNDS

Are (on Lake Ontario, at least) near the shore; there is generally on and between them and the deep water, a considerable tract of the bottom of the Lake covered with a species of *Algæ Confervæ*, and an aquatic moss on which the White Fish feeds, for he unlike most other fish is a vegetarian, and eschews cannibalism. I think it also extremely probable that, like his congeners of the sea, he frequents for the purpose of re-production, the place where he was himself produced, and does not migrate to any great distance unless actually driven from his natural and favourite haunts.

From these premises (assuming them to be in the main correct) it will at once be seen that the practice of fishing with seine, by which the spawning grounds from their proximity to the shore are swept as with a broom (in this case the besom of destruction), the fish are interrupted in depositing their spawn, captured before that necessary and tedious operation is complete, and brought on shore without discrimination as to size or condition, must eventually either exterminate the species or drive them from their accustomed and accessible haunts.

That this is practically the result of *seine* fishing I have little doubt; for the gradual decrease in the number of barrels shipped at this port where that system prevails, has been very decided for the last three years; in 1856 there were 802 barrels exported, in 1857 530 bbls., and in 1858 only 107 barrels.

Seines are also liable to another objection of nearly equal force, for though the mesh may be limited to a certain size, it by no means saves the small fry, on which next year's crop depends, from destruction, for when a great number of White Fish are enclosed in a seine the small are crowded on shore by the large, and being when young an extremely delicate fish, they are killed in the press, so that few escape; and the take is often so large of these inferior fish that they cannot be saved, hence many barrels are sent away imperfectly cured, and the character of the fish spoiled in the market.

But the moral effect of seine fishing, as it is now carried on, furnishes, perhaps, as grave an objection to its continuance as can be urged, for it is found from experience that where it prevails, idleness, drunkenness and other kindred vices spread with alarming rapidity; and in many respects the population resembles that of a locality where gold has recently been discovered in *small* quantities. To such an extent has this demoralizing influence prevailed in some instances, that I have known twice, and even three times the usual wages offered *in vain* to harvest hands—who preferred the chance of a night's fishing to earning an honest penny at their legitimate occupation as agricultural laborers; and I question if the time absolutely *lost* by the fishermen, and the grain left to suffer, by those whose business it is to take care of it, being seduced by a gambling spirit to the fishing beach, do not more than balance the sum paid for White Fish, large though that undoubtedly is in the aggregate.

These objections do not, however, apply to the gill nets, for they are generally set in deep water, sometimes in 200 feet, and when they are once *shut* they remain in *statu quo* until they are taken up, usually the following day,—they consequently neither interfere with the feeding places nor sweep the spawning grounds, and the smallest size of mesh being 24 inches, they do not commit the indiscriminate slaughter of the Seines; and taking comparatively large fish and fewer at a time, no difficulty is found in preserving and disposing of them. Neither do the moral objections affecting the Seines apply to them, for only persevering and steady industry can expect to make anything by Gill Nets, they are therefore used only by those who intend to make a livelihood by the business, and are therefore free from those spasmodic alternations from activity to idleness, so injurious to all concerned in seine fishing.

For these, and a great many other reasons too numerous to enlarge upon within the limits of a letter, I should recommend, if any legislative action be taken in

regard to amending the Fisheries Act, that Seine fishing for White Fish should be prohibited *after two years*, and a rate put upon each Gill Net Boat, and that in the meantime, in consideration of its vast commercial importance, and the great interest of the subject as a question of Natural History, that some person of competent scientific acquirements should be commissioned to study the habits of the various kinds of fish in the Lakes, and accumulate and arrange all the facts available for the formation of a general system of fishing, based upon proper and intelligent principles.

I am Sir,
Your obedient servant,

D. YOUNG LESLIE.

APPENDIX No. 31.

Report of the Fishery Overseer for the Division of Lakes Huron and Superior, for 1859.

COLLINGWOOD, 31st December, 1859.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your instructions, (as far as my time would admit) I have visited most of the Fishing Stations on Lake Huron, and a few on Lake Superior.

As I am not in a position this season to make a detailed report on each Station, I enclose the following statement of facts personally ascertained, and of information received from reliable sources.

When I commenced my duties in May last, I found there was a great dislike to the new Act, and a prevalent idea that the intention of the Government was solely to tax the fishermen. This feeling was encouraged and kept up by interested parties. After holding meetings, explaining the true nature and the intent of those who framed the Act, namely: "to preserve the fisheries and to protect Canadian fishermen," I found no difficulty in carrying out my instructions, and many of the most violent opponents of the "Fishery Act," in the first instance, are now its greatest advocates and stoutest supporters.

I can assert, without fear of contradiction, that on these lakes, with the exception of two individuals, I have not met with the slightest opposition since June last. The most strenuous advocates of the Act are those for whose benefit it was framed—the resident fishermen and local traders.

The old established mercantile firms of the Sault Ste. Marie, (American side) who have been extensively engaged in the fisheries of these lakes for many years, were the first to "take hold" of the leasing system. They have invariably tendered higher than Canadians, and paid in advance; in the prosecution of their fisheries they will employ a Canadian half-breed just as soon as one from their own side. One of these gentlemen, who has leased the Duck Islands at a high rent, has carried out a plan which has not been attempted by any other lessee; he has left his station unfished, and employed a boat's crew to prevent trespassing, and although he loses the whole rent for 1859, I believe that he will make up the loss in 1860-'61. These islands have been overfished; I found upon them a complete fishing village, fourteen houses, wharves, etc., erected by the Americans from the Sault, Mackinaw and Detroit. I also found on all our principal stations similar establishments. A very shrewd remark was made by an old Indian, in broken English, to me on this point, at Horse Island, one of their largest fishing grounds:—"What for you come now to see about fish? Why not come before, ten years gone? American been here, build house, chop wood, bring big boat, catch all fish, cheat poor Indian, sell him bad whiskey and bad goods; now no fish. You make take care of fish!"

The seine fishers object to clause 30 of the Act, because the size of the meshes is such as to gill herrings, and thus cause a great loss of valuable time in ungilling them by hand instead of (as formerly) shovelling out by means of shovels made for the purpose. If the meshes were one quarter of an inch smaller on the square this inconvenience would be obviated. Among twenty-two nets examined last season, I did not find one which could be legally used as the law now stands; the average mesh was $1\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch, many of them 1 inch.

If the clause is retained, a time should be set; due notice given by hand-bill to the seine fishermen; and after a fixed date all seines found in use with an undersized mesh, should be confiscated.

Finding the small measure to be universal, and that if I seized one I must seize all, and thus put many poor fishermen to serious loss, I merely warned the parties and notified them that their nets were not in accordance with the Fishery Act.

In the matter of tenders for fishing stations, I have not in any case, where the person tendering has offered a reasonable rent, refused to accept, and in no instance have I declined the tender of a poor person, white, half-breed, or Indian, at his own offer, however low, for the ground he had been accustomed to occupy.

I have issued 97 Leases, of these 12 are to Indian bands, 14 to the Hudson's Bay Company, the remainder to practical fishermen, or the merchants and traders employing fishermen. Most of these leases include a number of people, as I persuaded the fishermen in each locality to join together amicably, and unite in one Lease for the ground they have been accustomed to occupy. For instance in the one lease from Sable River to Port Franks, 22 separate parties of seiners are concerned; at Kincairdine 14; Saugeen 10; the Fishing Islands altho' given to six parties, in reality 16 persons were concerned, three of these employing seining gangs of 16 men each. In the lease to the merchants of Penetanguishene, of the Shawnaga Fisheries, all of the fishing population are concerned. From Meaford to Vail's Point, leased to three parties, 17 were concerned with separate crews and boats. At Collingwood, leased to one party, seven crews were engaged. The lessee of the Ducks, Mississaga Straits, and Grand Batture, will probably yearly employ 40 to 60 separate boats and crews.

I estimate the number of grown up persons engaged this season, under our Leases, at 917. The Lads under 16, the numerous bands of Indians, and those employed by the Hudson's Bay Company at their 14 different fishing stations, will number some 2,500 more.

If I had been sufficiently acquainted with localities, on Lake Superior, so as to give reliable information and define boundaries, I could have issued more leases, and I have every reason to believe that in 1860, there will be several parties engaged on Lake Superior, exploring for fishing stations only.

I cannot state with any exactness the catch at each station, during the past season; but from a calculation I have made, and from information collated, I am of opinion that the take for last year on our own side of these lakes was equal to 26,000 barrels. And in addition to this amount, during the fishing season of Fall and Spring, there were not less than 4,000 people living upon fish. The Hudson's Bay Company depend upon fish for the support of their respective posts, from September till June. A great portion of the Indians, and the half-breeds depend upon fish, from September till sugar-making.

In 1857, the officer in charge of the Hudson's Bay post at Fort William, (Lake Superior), besides the Winter supply for the post, and the daily rations of fresh fish to all hands, shipped for Detroit 733 barrels.

In June 1859, the main article of diet at Michipicoten Fort, (Lake Superior), was saltfish.

I am sure that under the leasing system, new grounds, particularly on Lake Superior, will be discovered, the quantity of fish taken will be increased, and a superior class of fishermen will be established on these lakes.

Owing to the unusual stormy weather of the past season, the fisheries, especially on exposed shoals, have failed, and great numbers of nets have been lost or destroyed. The take is therefore below an average.

The quantities of Oil made are so trifling as to be scarce worth noticing, being about 1,500 gallons. The effect of the 11th clause of the Fishery Act, will be to increase the manufacture of Oil. The only place where it is now made to any extent is at Goderich, where an enterprising man pays the fishermen for the offal which they formerly threw into the lake. Many of the lessees boil Oil for their own use. I have taken every opportunity of inducing the fishermen to make the offal into Oil; it is easily made, and a saleable article at 75 cents per gallon.

The fish taken at Point Edward, Goderich, Cape Rich, and Collingwood, is principally packed in boxes with ice and sent by rail to regular agents, in Canada and the United States, and is paid for with cash.

A large portion of the fish taken on the east coast of Lake Huron, from Point Edward to Cape Hurd, including the Fishing Islands, is sent to the States in barrels, and paid for part with cash and part with American goods. These goods, however, pay duties on their entrance into Canadian ports between Sarnia and Saugeen.

Two of the Lessees of the past season, occupying the Isle of Coves, and Rabbit's Island, sent their fish per the Collingwood line of steamers to Chicago, paid for principally in cash. From Chicago they were sent by rail to some of their relations in the State of Missouri, at a total cost to the producer, from the light house at the Isle of Coves, of \$2.50 per barrel, and sold there for \$12.

The remainder or far greater portion taken in Lake Superior, Georgian Bay, at the Ducks, Manitoulin, Cockburn, and St. Joseph's Islands, Mississaga Straits, and Sault Ste. Marie rapids, with the exception of the Hudson's Bay Company's stations and a small part of the coast from Cape Croker, *via* Owen Sound, Collingwood and Penetanguishene to the Naishootyang River, is also sent to the States, and paid for with American goods *paying no duties*.

I estimate that three-fourths of the fish taken in our waters never enter a Canadian port. The greatest market is Detroit. The collector of that port states the value of fish exported in 1859 to be over \$150,000.

A large portion of our fish is sold at the fishing stations to the Captains of American schooners, and paid for with smuggled goods and whiskey.

Seines are used at Point Edward, from thence along the beach to Port Franks, at Kincardine, and Inverhuron, for bait at Baie du Dard, Port Elgin, Fishing Islands, Owen Sound Bay, Nottawasaga Bay, and on Lake Superior at Fort William, Michipicoten Harbor and St. Ignace Island.

Mr. S. Hitchcock, of Sarnia, has paid Messrs. Zwoski & Co., two years, for a small piece of Point Edward, \$600 per annum, and now pays Mr. Blackwell \$400 per annum for the same ground. He told me that the Grand Trunk works had injured the fisheries. His books show annual sales of \$2,000 and upwards to Detroit and Cleveland, besides a local sale, and 120 barrels salted.

At the Fishing Islands on one occasion a few years back, on Main Station Island, 1,000 barrels and odd of herrings were landed in two hauls of the seine; 700 and then 300; at Cigar Island 500 barrels were taken at one haul. At Smoke-house Island, on one occasion, the seine was full as it could be, and for want of barrels and salt thousands of herrings were left in it. It is said that there has never been a good haul on that station since,—in fact it is not now used. The greatest haul this season was at Main Station, of 152 barrels.

At Fort William (Lake Superior), near the mouth of the North branch of the Kaministiquia River, 30 to 40 barrels of white fish have been taken at a haul with a very inferior class of men to manage the seine. To be successful in seining requires a trained gang and implicit obedience to an experienced foreman.

In the Nottawasaga Bay, during the Spring, only for the vast quantities of ice packed 20 to 30 feet deep near the projected terminus of the Georgian Bay Canal, there would be excellent seining.

I have no doubt that under the protection afforded to lessees by the Fishery Act, valuable seining grounds will be discovered on Lake Superior, and in several places on the Georgian Bay.

I am not aware of there being any pound-nets used on our waters this past season; but two brothers from Cleveland worked one close to our boundary, between Drummond Island and Tenby Bay, St. Joseph's Island, and took vast quantities of fish of every kind, seriously injured the local fishermen, and gave great annoyance to the Indians, half-breeds, and all the other residents in the neighborhood. When a large kind of pound-net is set in the channel, every fish is caught, large and small; the leaders extend $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 miles on each side, and are seldom lifted. If they were to be generally used the fisheries would be destroyed, and the legitimate class of gill-net fishermen would soon be obliged to follow some other pursuit for a living.

Scoop-nets are used in the Sault Ste. Marie Rapids nearly all the year, two men in a canoe with poles and one scoop-net can, during the season, catch two barrels of white fish

per day. I received from an American fisherman a high tender for the small Island on our side of the rapids, for a scoop-net station. This island was, however, reserved by the Indians in their late treaty.

Hooks are only used to any extent off Goderich, Kincardine and Inverhuron; and last season between Cape Rich and the Christian Islands, and will be used next season by the lessee of Cabot's Head Fishery. The greatest obstacle to their being more generally used, is the difficulty of catching bait. The hook fishing in a place where bait can be had is the most profitable of all modes, the fish so caught are generally of a larger class; the outfit and loss from stormy weather are trifling, as compared with the net fishings. On the 5th Sept., 1859, at Inverhuron, I saw fish landed, from one set of hooks, averaging 39 lbs each. From reliable information received through various parties, I believe that on Lake Superior, about Pic Island, Thunder Cape, St. Ignace, Nepigon Bay, Otter Head, and other places, Trout weighing from 60 to 90 lbs. can be taken by competent hook fishermen, and large sized Trout can also be taken in many places on Lake Huron hitherto untried.

Spearing and trolling are carried on to a great extent, chiefly by Indians and half-breeds, on all parts of these lakes. The fish are taken on the honey-combed shoals and other places where nets cannot be set. Where this kind of fishing is pursued, fish of all kinds cannot spawn unmolested.

The most experienced fishermen say that their regular net grounds are frequently seriously injured by the spearing of wandering Indians. Whether it is owing to the blood or to the torchlight they do not know; but three-fourths of the lessees would be glad to have spearing strictly prohibited, except upon the grounds leased to the various bands of Indians.

The number of fish taken by both the above methods is occasionally great. I know of an instance at Vail's Point, in the Township of St. Vincent, where, in one night, two persons, with one spear and birch bark for a torch, filled and emptied again their boat three times; and on a shoal between Cabot's Head and Barrière Island, the Cape Croker Indians frequently in a few hours (as it has been described to me) "bloody the water" for acres around, and fill their canoes with trout in a very short time. One of them this Fall, on the same shoal, in two hours, killed 82 Trout. It is unsafe to set nets on this shoal, and, consequently, only for the spearing and trolling, this alone would offer a safe breeding ground for a large extent of lake. Many other shoals are similarly situated. At Baie du Dard spearing has been carried on to a great extent, and the fishery nearly destroyed. On Lake Superior, in September 1858, John Finlayson, a subordinate officer of the Fort William Post, with a common spoon hook and line, caught, in two hours and a half, (padding), over four miles of coast, between Pigeon River and Big Trout Bay, seventy-four Trout, averaging five pounds each. He told me that he was tired of pulling them in, or could have filled his canoe two or three times. On the 27th September, 1859, on the shoals between Horse and Yeo Islands, Joseph Trudeaux, with a common spoon hook and a railroad spike for a sinker, caught (sailing) one hundred and fifty-two Trout in six hours. I saw the fish next morning; they averaged eight pounds each, and some of them weighed sixteen pounds. At the same time, and on the same shoals, greatly to the annoyance of the lessees, four boats of Indians and half-breeds were similarly occupied, tacking about the shoals, with two trolling lines attached to each boat. I was told that in 1858, on the same shoals, an Equimico Indian in one day caught two hundred and fifty Trout of about the same weight. In October 1859, E. Boucher, of Vail's Point, in two hours caught, with trolling tackle, fifty-eight Trout. On the 27th of the same month, round and amongst the islands at the entrance of the Georgian Bay, Indians and half-breeds were catching, with the trolling line, two to three barrels of Trout per day. In and about Collingwood harbour, and other places in the Georgian Bay, there would be capital Black Bass rod fishing but for the wholesale slaughter in the spring, when the Bass run into the rushes to spawn; in April 1859, at Collingwood harbor, ten to fifteen boats were engaged every night spearing Black Bass.—The spearing has also tended towards exterminating the speckled Trout in this neighborhood.

Gill-nets are in general use on these Lakes, having an average sized mesh of 5 inches stretched. At Yeo Island, this season, one of the boats used a 7 inch mesh, and although not taking so many as the 5 inch mesh, the average catch in weight was equal

On Lake Superior, 6 to 7½ inches is a common sized mesh. Off Thunder Cape, Pic Island, and other places, where the fish will run 10 and 15 to a barrel, a large meshed net may be used to advantage, as the large fish sell best.

During the season numbers of nets are lost, or so entangled and torn as to be useless, and when the fish are "on," Lessees must have nets and barrels or miss their best chance for the season, there being no place on these Lakes where a depôt of either is kept, and frequently in the midst of the "run" the Lessee has to leave his station, and wander about for days and weeks till he finds nets and barrels. I suggested to the Warden of the Reformatory Prison at Penetanguishene, that he should employ some of the prisoners in making nets and barrels suitable to these Lakes; both trades are easily and quickly learnt at very little outlay for "plant."

The nets made by machinery in the United States, and at Musselburgh in Scotland, are said not to be so good as hand made nets. I could find a ready sale for a large yearly supply of nets and barrels. The greatest haul in Gill nets that I have heard of during the past season, was at Cape Rich (Mr. Curtis,) of 754 Trout to 2000 yards of net, and 600 White Fish to 1300 yards. At this station a fair haul to 1200 yards of net was considered to be 250 to 300 fish; they are now taking 150 to 250. At the Fishing Islands on the outside Shoals, on the 8th November last, five boats with 15 to 20 nets each, averaged of White Fish 10 barrels to each boat; the same parties had previously taken on the same Shoals 60 to 70 barrels per boat of Trout. About the same date the Lessee of Rabbit Island, close to Cape Hurd, having lost nearly all of his nets, was fishing 4 nets at a time, and taking 60 to 80 trout, averaging 40 to a barrel at each "lift." At the Fishing Islands I leased to a half breed a small piece for Herring and gill net fishery, between the seining grounds. He took 120 barrels in a few weeks within his own family. On the 7th October, S. Boucher, at Vail's Point, with 700 yards took 250 trout. On the 26th, off Hay Island, the Lessee took 235 trout to 8 nets; 30 fish to a net was considered a fair average take, off these Islands. At Grand Portage, and off Pigeon River head-land, Lake Superior, in August, 1858, I saw numbers of Indians who were waiting for their presents go out in their canoes about 2 miles, some of them had not more than 100 yards of net—they would set in the evening and next morning bring in 30 to 40 Trout, averaging 4 lbs each. Off Collingwood, in November, the greatest haul was 515 White Fish to 1600 yards of net, and 282 trout to 1500 yards. They have made several hauls these last few days of 100 to 180. Our harbor has been open since the 4th of April. In 1857, on Lake Superior, near St. Ignace Island, Clarke, late pilot of the Rescue, with 2 men in 5 weeks filled 175 barrels with Trout averaging 18 to a barrel. I have been informed that Strowger this last season on Captain Dick's ground, at Michipicoten Island, with 8 men in 6 weeks took 700 barrels; these fish would be worth, at least, \$8 per barrel, being chiefly large red Trout.

With reference to the point of preservation on these Lakes, I think that under the present Fishery Act, and the addition of Rules to totally abolish spearing (except on grounds reserved for the Indians,) and the prohibition of trolling during the "spawning time," the fish will not for many years perceptibly decrease; for, owing to the storms, honey-combed and inaccessible shoals, there will be many places in all parts of Lakes Huron and Superior, where fish of all kinds can spawn unmolested by Gill Nets. If the netting, trolling, and spearing is allowed to be continued as at present, the fisheries, in a few years, will be destroyed. The fish will have no shoals where they can spawn undisturbed, and the number of persons pursuing them will annually increase.

Had it not been for the timely passage and enforcement of the Fishery Act, the Speckled or Brook Trout in the neighbourhood of settlements, or steamboat communication, would in a few years have become extinct. Within the last ten years, Speckled Trout were plentiful, and of large size in the Georgian Bay; they now are very scarce, and of very small size. In July and August, 1845, whilst engaged in surveying the present Town of Meaford, about 20 miles West of Collingwood, situated on Big Head River, I kept a party of eight men for upwards of six weeks, chiefly on Speckled Trout. I had only 400 feet of net, and set close in shore on the North side of Big Head River, near to the present steamboat wharf. It was placed in the evening and raised next morning. The take averaged 10 to 15 per night, of an average weight of 2 lbs. each, some weighing 4 lbs., and one weighed 6 lbs. Trout as heavy as 5 and 6 lbs. were then frequently taken

in that stream. In May, 1852, whilst surveying the Town Plot of Thornbury, about 14 miles West of Collingwood, situated on Beaver River, I kept myself and party for over 8 weeks, chiefly on Speckled Trout. I have taken with a fly on an evening in the first rapids, 40 to 50 lbs., weighing 2, 3 and 4 lbs. each. I have seen Olmstead's son, (13 years old) spear 15 to 25 lbs. per day (in daylight,) many of them weighing 5 and 6 lbs. In Pretty River, Silver Creek, Black Ash Creek, now within the limits of the Town of Collingwood, Speckled Trout were plentiful since the Railroad was opened. In Mad River, which runs through Nottawasaga and Osprey, they are still plentiful. In Demoniah River, Manitoulin Island, and other streams, they are also abundant. In Gardiner and Root Rivers, and various branches of the Sault Ste. Marie Rapids, and in the small creeks in the Bay above the Rapids, they are still plentiful. The half-breeds and Indians with nets and spears take large quantities for the American boats. I saw a string last season of about 40, averaging 13 lbs. each, sold to the steward of the "North Star" for 30 cents per lbs; these had been taken in nets. On Lake Superior there are hundreds of creeks and several large Rivers full of Speckled Trout; Current River, McKenzie River, and various creeks in Thunder Bay, near to Fort William. Capt. Dick, of the "Rescue" has taken very large Speckled Trout in Current River. On the various Lakes (16 in number) on Michipicoten Island, and a creek running into the Quebec Harbor, they are plentiful, and of large size. In a creek near to Michipicoten Fort they are said to be numerous, and in nearly all the streams from Gros Cap to Current River they abound. I have been told by reliable parties—men who have been in the Hudson's Bay Company's service for years—that in the Rivers entering into Black and Nipigon Bays, they are to be seen as large as the Salmon Trout, weighing 10 to 13 lbs. Three or four years ago, a party of Americans from Rochester, came up to Beaver River in the depth of winter, hired men and boys at high rates of wages, for the purpose of catching Speckled Trout through holes cut in the ice. They took away with them several sleigh loads. In 1857, (Feb'y) I purchased at Thornbury 82 lbs of Speckled Trout, taken by two men in 4 hours, thro' holes in the ice, with pieces of venison for bait. I believe that if the hole is made over a school every fish will be taken. There is no sport or ingenuity of any kind required; but with a short stick and 4 or 5 feet of string, a hook, and a piece of raw meat, they can be jerked out as fast as the bait can be replaced. It is generally said that the saw dust from the mills is the cause of the destruction of Trout; this, however, cannot be the case in Beaver River and many other streams, where they were once plentiful and now are scarce. I attribute their destruction principally to the spear, to netting the mouths of the streams, and the want of Fish Ways to Dams. For two years in succession a small meshed net was kept constantly across the mouth of Beaver River; Pretty River, Big Head River, and Silver Creek have also been netted.

In a mercantile point of view the Speckled Trout are not of much value, although on Lake Superior I have seen them barreled with other fish; but as regards the expenditure of money on our steamers amongst our boats and fishermen, half-breeds and Indians, sport, amusement, attraction to strangers and tourists, I look upon their preservation as very important. I heard the landlord of the Chippewa House, at Sault Ste Marie, say that if it was not for the Speckled Trout he must close his house. Our hotel keepers at Collingwood also know the importance of the Speckled Trout fishery. Parties of wealthy men from all parts of the States, annually visit our waters for this sport alone, and remain for weeks and months, spending their money freely on our steamboats and at our hotels, &c., and hiring our boats and fishermen at high wages. Spearing, undue netting, and hobbing in the ice, injure the streams in this neighbourhood so much, that the total destruction of Speckled Trout was imminent; and immediately after the passing of the Fishery Act, some of the settlers on Beaver River and some of our people in Collingwood, formed a Fishing Protection Society, and during the last season their increase was noticed.

Having already addressed to the Department several special Reports on the subject of the coasting trade, and smuggling over these Lakes, I need not further enlarge thereupon. The business of fishing, trading and smuggling have hitherto gone hand in hand together. If there was no revenue derived from the leasing system on Lakes Superior and Huron, the protection and encouragement given to our own fishermen and traders by the presence of a Government boat and crew would fully justify the attendant expense. I beg leave to

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urge the necessity of more effectually repressing the practice of smuggling on these waters, so unjust to Canadian dealers, and injurious to the populations. If a proper check was put upon such illicit traffic, it would cause a large and active Canadian trade to spring up, peculiarly beneficial to the steamers running from Collingwood to Sault Ste Marie and Lake Superior, to the Northern Railroad, and of vast importance to the City of Toronto. Vessels would be started from the Ports of Sarnia, Goderich, Saugeen, Owen Sound, Collingwood and Penetanguishene, dealing principally with Canadian Merchants, and bringing into Canada Ports the produce of Lakes Superior and Huron, which now finds its way to Detroit and other Ports on the American side.

I have, during the past season, on all occasions when within a reasonable distance, visited the light house keepers, and frequently been of service to them. On one occasion, (Sept. 5th) during the longest and most severe gale of the season, I was instrumental in saving one of the light-house keepers, his wife, boy and assistant from starvation, although within a short distance of the main land. I allude to Chantry Island, opposite Saugeen. I found them without a particle of food, no means of reaching the shore, and no prospect of being able to communicate with the people of Saugeen. On the day I was there 2 men and 2 women were drowned within a few miles, going into Port Elgin, in a large Mackinaw boat. The Saugeen fishermen who have splendid sea-boats, did not lift their nets for 9 days during this gale, and no small boat dare venture out. The new Light Houses are highly eulogized by the American Captains of the Collingwood and Chicago Line. Of an ordinarily clear night, the Isle of Coves and Collingwood revolving lights can be seen from 24 to 30 miles. If a light was built on the outer Duck Island, a Steamer on the Collingwood and Chicago route, would scarcely at any time be out of range of a light. I am aware of several instances in which the Light House Keepers have been of material assistance to our lessees. The Isle of Coves Light House is a rendezvous for the lessees between Cape Croker and the Duck Islands. The lights have been kept up in a very efficient manner during the past season. Three Light Houses are much needed on Lake Superior, and two on the North Channel, or the Channel between the Manitoulin Island and the North Shore. The Collingwood and Sault Ste Marie Line of Boats always follow this route, and during the fall the Chicago Line also, being a sheltered navigation upwards of 150 miles.

My journal will show the number of times I have visited each station on these Lakes; the distances so travelled being as follows:—in open boat, 5,712 miles; by steamer, 2,294 miles; by railroad, 1,555 miles; and 99 miles by stage, making in all 9,660 miles of travel. I have also attended 22 public meetings,—received 341 letters and written reports and answers to the number of 440,—filled and entered (describing metes and bounds of stations and courses, and distances of lines) 303 leases, inclusive of duplicates and triplicates for Indian bands and Local Superintendents in charge. Among the letters written were numerous special reports to the Crown Lands Department, regarding the Fisheries, the Laws, Smuggling, Revenue, Indian Affairs, and the Mineral and Agricultural capabilities of the lands around these lakes. I made a survey and plan of part of the coast with soundings near the proposed terminus of the Red River Road, on Lake Superior. I also made a diagram of soundings and points of the Quebec Harbor, Michipicoten Island, and laid down buoys, and the same off Gros Cap, at the request of the Captain of the "Rescue." Since I laid up the boat, I have been constantly in the office from 10 A. M., until 5 P. M., up to date, and have not received the slightest aid or assistance from any person, except in the copying out of some notices by Mr. Moore, in the early part of the season, at Sault Ste. Marie.

In the discharge of my duties this season, with the exception of 12 days work at various times, I was absent from home, from the 4th May until the 29th November. The greater portion of the Leases, and a large number of the letters and reports were written at the various fishing stations. I have received much aid from the undermentioned Government officers: A. McNabb, Crown Lands Agent at Saugeen; R. Carney, Stipendiary Magistrate at the Sault Ste. Marie; J. McWatt, Collector of Customs at Collingwood; P. Ferguson, Deputy Collector at Collingwood; S. S. Walsh, at Goderich; William Simpson, at Penetanguishene, and R. McIntosh, at Kincardine, and from Captain Rowan, of the steamer "Islander," Captain Dick, of the "Rescue," and Mr. Wright, of the steamboat

"Ploughboy." And I have invariably been kindly received by the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, at their respective posts on Lakes Huron and Superior.

In concluding this Report, I state plainly, that with the class of half-civilized people I have to deal with on these Lakes, over an extent of coast-line equal to 4,000 miles in one direction, and with a large majority of our lessees residing at stations remote from law and redress, that I cannot protect our fisheries from encroachment—our lessees from depredations, annoyance and trespass, unless I am clothed with powers of summary jurisdiction similar to P. Fortin, Esquire, in Lower Canada. I have during the season reported many instances strongly corroborative of this statement, and the last case reported regarding the willful trespass upon the lessee of Michipicoten Harbor, in Lake Superior, despite the notice from the lessee, is a very strong one.

I have the honor to be,

&c., &c.,

(Signed,) WILLIAM GIBBARD,
Overseer of Fisheries for Lakes
Huron and Superior.

The Hon. Commissioner
of Crown Lands.
&c., &c., &c.,

APPENDIX, No. 32.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FISHERIES FOR LOWER CANADA, 1859.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FISHERIES,
Quebec, December 31st, 1858.

The Honorable Commissioner of Crown Lands.

SIR,—In relation to my operations in the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence during last season I have the honor to report :

I left Quebec on the 27th May, my first point of destination being the Saguenay River District.

The principal fishery at the mouth of the Saguenay is the Tadousac Salmon Fishery, generally yielding from 1,400 to 1,500 fish. Previous to the present system being adopted, it had been fished by the Hudson's Bay Company, and was one of their posts for trading in furs and fish.

Having understood that they had sold their nets and "what right they had to the fishery" to Mr. Thomas Simard of Murray Bay, I had notified him by letter that no arrangement that he might make with the Company with regard to the fishery would be recognized, and that it would be necessary for him to obtain a license from the Superintendent of Fisheries. On my arrival I found Mr. Simard in occupation ; and having understood that he had made arrangements with the Company in ignorance, I consented to accept from him the amount he had agreed to give the Company (\$200) tho', I gave him plainly to understand it would give him no prior claim to the next season's occupation, inasmuch as an offer of a much larger sum (\$500 for the station) had been tendered to me.

Having arranged all things satisfactorily with Mr. Simard, I proceeded to lay off the different stations along the shore, in such a manner that no one Fishery should interfere with another, and also with a view to make each station productive.

Most of the fishermen along the Saguenay are poor men ; I therefore considered it advisable to charge them a mere nominal sum for their license certificates ; each of these Stations will, in a short time, become of much greater value ; and they will then be able to pay something more for their licenses, and will, at the same time reap a rich harvest from a system which, I venture to assert, cannot be surpassed.

June 2nd.—Crossed the St. Lawrence to Rivière du Loup, and then by steamer to Quebec.

June 10th.—Left Quebec for Rimouski and the Gulf ; crossed from Rimouski to Godbout River ; marked out the net and fly fishing division for the lessees, and put Mr. Alfred Blais (who had been recommended by Mr. Chapais, M. P. P.) in charge as "fishery

overseer," with instructions to see that the requirements of the Fishery Act, and conditions of the lease were fulfilled.

According to the terms of the lease, possession could not be had of the Hudson's Bay buildings, till the 15th November, but on my arrival I found that the Agent, (Mr. McKenzie), was preparing to leave the station, and he very kindly gave the lessee of the Godbout, (Mr. Holiday), permission to occupy the house and stores.

June 16.—Left Godbout and proceeded along the coast, issuing licenses to such parties as had fisheries along the shores. In Trinity Bay, settled a dispute between some of the fishermen in relation to their stations, and found the men without exception, not only satisfied, but well pleased to take licenses, as it secured them against all other parties, who might otherwise plant their nets so as to destroy the fishery.

While at Trinity Bay, application was made to me by Mr. Morin, Notary, on behalf of J. Maclure, for a fishery at Isle de Caribo. It appeared that a brother of the applicant had died, and that they wished to force the widow to give up possession. I told the Notary that I would make myself conversant with the facts of the case, before granting a license, consequently, a few days after (having been delayed by most terrific weather at Trinity Bay), I started for Isle de Caribo; ascertained the merits of the case, and found that the widow was still desirous of continuing the fishery, and wished to obtain a license for that purpose, which I accordingly granted her.

Isle de Caribo appears admirably adapted for a Salmon Fishery station, and in a short time by guarding all the rivers, this and many others will become very valuable stations. I found at this place a family of Indians, (Antoine Vallin), who appeared by their industrious habits to have made themselves a comfortable home. From all parties I heard of their industry and integrity, which had been evinced on two occasions during shipwreck, and of the great assistance they had been to the shipwrecked and drowning crew. The old man had had for a long time a Salmon Fishery station, and I consequently granted him a license at a nominal rate. To his son, also, I granted a license to fish at the mouth of the little Trinity river, an inconsiderable stream below Isle de Caribo.

Left Caribo and proceeded along the coast,—towards evening we were obliged to come to an anchor in the Calumet river, the wind having died away, where my Indians told me a considerable quantity of Salmon were formerly taken.

TUESDAY, June 21st, 4 A. M.—Left the Calumet river and proceeded to the Pentecost, but after a few hours was obliged to return, a heavy wind and tide being dead against us. Explored the Calumet river for some distance, found the remains of a house that had been occupied by some fishermen, also a smoke house, used I presume for smoking Salmon. This must evidently have been a good Salmon river, but I suppose the spear has destroyed it, as the Indians told me they used to spear Salmon in it. In the evening a fox and bear came out on the beach. The Indians went in pursuit, and in about an hour returned with the bear across their shoulders.

June 22nd, A. M.—Wind still continued to blow heavy from the east with heavy rain; not able to leave the Calumet. 2 P. M.—Walked a few miles along the shore towards English Point; found two men from Green Island fishing for Salmon and sea Trout opposite Egg Island. They had not been very successful, granted them a license.

June 23, 6 A. M.—Wind lulled, made preparation to leave the Calumet; sent back the boat to Trinity Bay by Pierre Vallin; and started off in canoe, surf very heavy.

2 P. M.—Arrived at the Pentecost river after a long and dangerous journey; the canoe being too heavily laden; had no opportunity of exploring this fine river, but understood there are few or no Salmon in it, from some local cause; I believe the clay deposits. It is a beautiful river and looks in every respect well adapted for Salmon; formerly large quantities of sea Trout were taken, but the river has been destroyed by seining.

Left the Pentecost river, and proceeded towards the Cawees; here there is a very good Cod fishery establishment; arrived at a log hut near Isle de Mai, where from its appearance I think there could be a very excellent Salmon Fishery establishment. June 24, 6, A. M.—Heavy fog with rain, got under weigh and proceeded onward amid thick fog and mist, very dangerous canoeing; not knowing where to go, being unable to see the length of the canoe ahead, amid deeply indented bays and creeks.

10 A. M.—Weather clear, and being able to see our way proceeded to the Little Mar-

guerite, where we arrived at 1.30. At the mouth of this small river I perceived shoals of young Salmon fry; at 2.30 arrived at the Marguerite and found Joseph Langlois, Antoine Blais, and Joseph Vallin, Indian, Salmon fishing. They had very little success; granted licenses to each at nominal rates, as they had been so unfortunate.

June 25th.—Left the Marguerite in a boat owned by an Indian, the weather being too rough for a canoe, and started for Seven Islands, where we arrived at 2 P. M. Mr. McKenzie stated that he had been at the Moisie a day or two before; that Captain Fortin had not arrived, and that the Fishermen would not give up the river to Mr. Holiday. I had hoped that Captain Fortin had arrived long before, but hearing he had not I immediately started for the Moisie; but the weather becoming calm was obliged again to take to canoe, and proceeded onward to about half way to Moisie; left the canoe on the shore and walked the remainder of the distance (about nine miles,) and arrived at the Moisie river about 9 P. M.; found that the "Canadienne" had arrived the same evening, and that Captain Fortin had gone up the river to order the men off from the fishing stations. Friday, June 26th.—Fine weather; visited some of the stations; found that there were nearly as many stands of nets as there were last year.

Monday, June 27th, 9 A. M.—Measured off the boundary on the seaboard to constitute Mr. Holiday's limit (one mile on each side of the river); notified the parties who had nets within the limits to remove them. Mr. Holiday informed me that immediately on his arrival he had sent written notifications to the parties who were fishing, that he was lessee of the river, and that he expected them to remove their nets; but that they would not do so without some direct authority.

Tuesday, June 28th.—Fine weather; visited the different fishing stations; notified the owners of the schooners that they were not, on any consideration, to throw the offal in the river; examined into the matter of Guimette, Maturin and Talbot, who had written to the Commissioner, requesting permission to continue their fishery in the river. I found that the houses they had mentioned as having built were not worth \$10 each, and as regards the places where they had set their nets, I found there had been nine stands of nets set where certainly not more than three stands of nets should have been placed; and in relation to the applicant Guimette, I could find that no such person was on the river, but, on further inquiry, I ascertained that he was a shopkeeper at Cap St. Ignace, and who, for appearance sake, I presume, had sent his son, a boy of about 15 years of age, to the Moisie this season, with the other applicants; and I much fear that the system generally in vogue is for the merchant or shopkeeper to fit out the fisherman, and one can well understand who would reap the benefit from the fishery.

It is much to be regretted that neither Captain Fortin nor myself were enabled to put the lessee in possession of the river Moisie at the commencement of the fishing season, for most of the parties who had formerly fished this river had (notwithstanding the Government notice of the lease of the Salmon rivers) gone over from Gaspé, Bonaventure, and the South Shore, and were in occupation on our arrival, and though they quietly took up their nets when requested to do so, they had occupation of the river two-thirds of the whole fishing season, and Gaspard Maturin (who had a schooner at the Moisie) took upwards of 150 barrels of Salmon (the produce of the fisheries) to the Quebec markets, the value of which the Government or the lessee must sustain; for, I could scarcely recommend a prosecution of the fishermen; who, as I said before on being officially notified took up their nets, though they are to be censured for occupying the river after seeing the Government notices regarding the leasing of the Moisie and other Salmon rivers.

Appointed Mr. Hugh Chisholm Fishery Overseer for the District from Seven Islands to Mingan river, and gave him the necessary instructions regarding his duties.

Made arrangements with Captain Fortin for a division of our duties, so that there would be no necessity for our occupying the same field of labour.

Canadienne got under weigh for the Labrador and lower ports.

Wednesday, June 29th.—Proceeded up the river to lay off the boundary between the netting and fly fishing divisions. 1. P. M.—Arrived at the camping ground of Messrs. Bacon and Williams, the lessees of the fly fishing limits, (17 miles from the mouth of the river). The nets having been taken up (and Mr. Holiday being busy in preparing his nets) the fish had a clear run for a few days and shoals of enormous Salmon were constantly pas-

sing upwards. There have been such a stock of breeding Salmon in the Moisie this season, that in a few years the catch will be more than doubled.

Heavy rains having set in, I was therefore unable to define the upper limits of the river. I shall endeavor to explore the Moisie at some future occasion, as it is a most valuable river.

On my return to the Post, information was laid before me by the Fishery Overseer, to the effect that Dominique Lepage (one of the Codfishermen) had been throwing fish offal in the river, though he had been warned not to do so. Summoned the offender and convicted him on confession of judgement.

It will be necessary that the Superintendent of Fisheries should have authority to define the anchorage ground for the numerous schooners that frequent the Moisie and other rivers, for though it would possibly be a hardship to prevent them from anchoring in the rivers, yet due care should be taken that they do as little injury as possible.

Numerous applications have been made to me for lots of land for fishing purposes, for, though the Act permits the occupation of the unoccupied wild lands for carrying on the fisheries, yet, at certain places where the men congregate to cure their fish, disputes arise as to occupation; some wishing to hold more land than they can directly use, while others are put to inconvenience from not having enough.

Having proceeded up the river, I temporarily laid off the net from the fly fishing limits; giving each of the lessees a letter describing the limits assigned to each party. I now gave final instructions to the Overseer, and on the 11th July left the river Moisie and crossed to the South Shore, landed at Cape Chatte, and from thence proceeded to St. Anne des Monts.

The inhabitants along the shore are all (more or less) engaged in the Cod fishery, the principal parties being Mr. LeBoutillier, Mr. Lamontagne, and Mr. Lesperance. These houses generally employ a large number of boats, and likewise purchase from the fishermen generally. The catch along the District has been very successful; Mr. LeBoutillier alone secured above 2000 quintals of Cod fish; the others in proportion.

The St. Anne and Cape Chatte Rivers are well adapted for Salmon, and in a short time they will be very valuable. The catch in these rivers is not large, but it only requires a little care to be taken to prevent spearing, and a due observance of netting to cause them once more to abound in salmon.

There is no Mill Dam on the St. Anne's, though on the little St. Anne's (a mill stream) there is one belonging to Mr. Sasseville, but on which I told him for the present there is no necessity for building a Salmon pass. Cape Chatte River is well adapted for Salmon, and a great many are taken in it, though none in comparison to what ought to be caught on this river. There is a Mill Dam about eight miles from the mouth, which I visited. I found this a most magnificent river, and when the impediment of the Dam is overcome, the fish have a clean run of some twenty miles, with good spawning ground. The man at the mill informed me that he had that day seen swarms of Salmon at the pool near the foot of the Dam, but I was sorry to hear that the people along the banks (principally squatters) were in the habit of fishing with flambeau and spear.

Hired a pilot boat and proceeded towards Matane; passed several vessels Mackerel fishing. Arrived at Matane and found several nets in the river; ordered them to be taken out. This is also a very valuable river, as the fish have a clean run of above 30 miles without any impediment, save the Mill Dam at the mouth.

The owner, Mr. Bradley, had, after frequent notice given him, built a fishway, but from letters I have received from the residents, it is not built in accordance with the model and is, therefore, of little or no utility.

From Matane proceeded to Metis, visited the Blanche and Tartigo, (intermediate rivers) and also the Mill Dams on the Metis, one belonging to Mr. Price, the other to the Hon. Mr. Tessier. Between two and three miles up this river there is a very high Fall, but between the Mills and the Fall there is some very fine spawning ground for Salmon.

Left Metis for Rimouski, and having visited this place in the Spring, I did not go up the river. I found that one man, a notorious poacher, had been at his old practices, that he had killed a large quantity of Salmon with the spear, but that he had been summoned and convicted; he has since absconded.

Left Rimouski in the steamer Saguenay, and arrived at Quebec on Tuesday, July 9th. Having heard that some people were spearing in the Jacques Cartier river, I drove out for the purpose of ascertaining who the parties were that were breaking the law; called on Mr. Langevin, (who resided during the summer at the river) and was told by him that he had heard there had been spearing carried on, but that he could give me no direct information.

Called on the Dubés, who I suspected were some of the parties who had been spearing, and cautioned them of the punishment that would be inflicted on them should they again be convicted of spearing salmon, and I am sure that nothing but the severest penalty will stop them from such evil practices.

Found that during my absence from Quebec H. Atkinson, Esq., had finished the fishway on his Mill Dam, at the Etchemin river, so that we may hope to find that river soon stocked with Salmon as it was formerly, there having been an excellent Salmon Fishery at the mouth of the river, previous to the Mill Dam being built.

August 10th, left Quebec for Green Island to examine the Mill Dam on the river.—Served Mr. Bertrand with a notice to build a fishway, which he promised to do immediately. Drove to Rivière du Loup, examined the Mill Dam on the river, the whole of the water being left off; the immense height of the Dam will cause an outlay of at least \$200 in the construction of a fishway. I have hitherto declined prosecuting the proprietor, as he intended addressing the Department, praying to be relieved from building the same.

Having been informed, on my arrival at Quebec, (by Mr. Doucett, Clerk of the Peace) that two persons from the Saguenay had been convicted by Mr. Radford, Magistrate at l'Ance a l'Eau, for spearing salmon in the river St. John, and that in default of paying the penalty imposed by law, they had been sent to the Quebec gaol; but that from some cause the men had been liberated from prison, under a writ of Habeas Corpus.

Knowing that Mr. Radford at all times exercised great care in the discharge of his Magisterial duties, and as he had written to me on the subject, I waited on the Judge who had ordered the discharge of the prisoners, and proved to him that there was no error on the part of the convicting Magistrate, and that his whole proceedings had been in accordance with the law.

I regret to say that much evil has arisen from the discharge of these men, (who were notorious spears; they had often been cautioned that they were breaking the law, but they were determined to brave it.) They returned to the Saguenay district, stated that there was no law against spearing, and it happening that a large party of Indians being then at the Saguenay, they immediately commenced spearing on the different rivers, and the consequence has been great destruction of Salmon from the use of the vile spear; and as regards the men (Delaires) who had escaped punishment, the convicting Magistrate wrote me that unless they were punished, there would be no use in attempting to deter any others. I therefore went down to the Saguenay, went up to the river St. John's, and obtained sufficient evidence to convict them of another breach of the law. I therefore summoned the parties, who, with great humility, attended the Court, confessed their guilt, and on their expressing contrition and promising never to offend again, I fined them in the minimum penalty, the complainant remitting his share of the fine and costs. The conviction of these men had a very salutary effect, for, as before stated, the inhabitants, seeing them return from gaol, naturally conceived that there was no law to prevent them from spearing; and thus, it was absolutely necessary that they should be punished and the dignity of the law upheld, as also to shew others that the Act was a reality. I would also state that the counsel for the prisoners, (in Quebec) when he found that he had been misled by the men, and that there had been no error in the conviction, wrote to the men, cautioning them not to commit a like offence, and indeed did all he could to remedy the evil that had been committed.

Francois Bouillianne, of St. Catherines, had been summoned by Mr. Radford for a breach of the fishery law, but had treated the matter with contempt. I went over to the Bay of St. Catherines, found he had a trout net set for catching Salmon, caused the same to be removed, and had him served with a summons for breach of law.

On the day appointed to try the case, defendant did not make his appearance, but having heard from good authority that he was absent from his home for some time, even prior to the service of the summons, I declined to proceed *ex parte*, and held the matter over to a future occasion.

There is no part of the whole coast where so much opposition to the law has been experienced as in the district around the river Saguenay, owing, I fear, to the ill advice the poor illiterate men receive from those from whom we might expect better things, and who, instead of being friends to the fishermen, are in reality their worst enemies.

Having arranged matters at the Saguenay, I returned to Quebec, and during the few days there visited the Lakes and Rivers in the vicinity. In the River St. Charles there has been a good many Salmon taken this season; great injury has been done this river this season from persons killing the young *par* and *smolt*. Some protection must be afforded to the young Salmon or the river can never become well stocked with fish.

It is not generally known that the young Salmon smolt return to the river the ensuing season Grilse from 3lbs. to 4lbs. weight. How satisfactory it would be to find that the River St. Charles could produce enough Salmon to supply the wants of the city, and most assuredly it will if due care be taken to prevent the destruction of the young Fry, Par and Smolt.

Having received information that certain gentlemen were Sal. on fishing on the St. Anne's River, (after close season), I sent to ascertain if the information I had received was true; the parties were caught in the act of fishing, they had hooked two Salmon; upon receiving the report of the parties I had sent down, I immediately issued summonses against them, and they, knowing it was useless to defend the case, confessed judgment, and were convicted and paid the penalty.

Saturday, September 17th.—Left Quebec in steamer *Lady Head* for Gaspé and Baie de Chaleur; arrived at Gaspé Basin at 9 P. M.

Gaspé Bay and Basin, second only on this coast to the Baie de Chaleur, receives the waters of three fine Salmon rivers, the Dartmouth, the York, and the St. John's, which formerly abounded with large quantities of Salmon; latterly, from injudicious netting and spearing, the Salmon Fisheries have been nearly destroyed; so much so, that the fishermen had forsaken the fisheries on their own shores, and had frequented most of the rivers on the North Shore, where, I am sorry to say, they were following the same destructive practices which had so much injured the fisheries on the South Shore.

Happily this evil has been put a stop to in a great measure. Gaspé and Bonaventure, together with portions on the North Shore, have been divided into Districts over which overseers have been appointed. The main object to be kept in view is, the increase of the Salmon Fisheries, which can only be brought about by a system of judicious netting, and the abolition of the spear and drag nets.

Monday, September 19th.—Examined the beach lots at Gaspé for which applications have been made, (and reported on the same in my letter of the 20th to the Department). The person who had been appointed to oversee at Gaspé Basin (including the York and Dartmouth rivers) having accepted another situation, this station had been without an overseer till 1st August.

I have every reason to believe that the Indians have been selling speared Salmon to one or more of the shop-keepers at this place. The party is known to me, tho' the evidence would not be clear enough to convict him: I shall, however, cause him to be narrowly watched.

The "Canadienne" arrived at Gaspé while I was there; had some conversation with Captain Fortin, to whom I had sent a license book early in the season, for the purpose of granting the necessary licenses to the fishermen. Captain Fortin had acted with great judgement in granting the licenses in this district. The inhabitants were fully convinced that the system was adopted for the preservation of the fisheries. Ultimately they will be the gainers in the increased value of the fishing stations, from an abundant supply of fish.

Having arranged all matters at Gaspé, I proceeded onward to the Baie de Chaleur; visiting and giving the necessary instructions to the overseers at Douglstown, Mal Baie, Pabos, and Port Daniel.

On my arrival at New Carlisle I was informed that Mr. Hamilton had been purchasing speared Salmon from the Indians. He had left home for Quebec the morning of my arrival. I gave instructions to the Overseer to obtain, if possible, the necessary evidence to convict Mr. Hamilton of the offence. I also requested Mr. Martel (advocate) to conduct the prosecution should he find the evidence (that would be laid before him by the overseer) sufficient to obtain a conviction.

From New Carlisle I proceeded onward to Bonaventure and New Richmond, the district of Mr. Ralph Dimock, a most efficient overseer, who had exercised so much diligence in his official duty as to have prosecuted and convicted several parties for illegal fishing in the Cascapedia and Bonaventure Rivers. He had also seized two barrels of speared Salmon from Indians and others, (which I have given to two charitable institutions in this city: the Finlay Asylum and Sisters of Charity or Grey Nuns). The energy and determination he had evinced in the discharge of his duty will doubtless deter others from like offences in the future.

One general complaint was the evil that has arisen from permitting the Indians to spear Salmon for their own use. In the Baie de Chaleur above 300 barrels have been taken, and conveyed across the New Brunswick side of the river and sold.

The Grand Cascapedia is a most valuable Salmon river, and ought to yield from 500 to 600 barrels annually. The great yield of certain parts of the Bay in former times exceeds belief. At Maguasha Point above 7000 barrels have been taken annually by one person.

The overseer having informed me that he had seized some speared Salmon from the Indians, and desiring my instructions in relation to prosecuting the parties, I desired him to act in accordance with the regulations I had previously sent him, and to make no distinction of persons. After my departure I was glad to find that he had convicted the parties before H. Mandersen, J. P., and Captain Fortin, who arrived at the river at this juncture. Leaving the Cascapedia I drove on to the Maria and Nouvelle districts, in charge respectively of Finlay Cook and E. McEwen. These districts were formerly very valuable, and yielded an abundance of salmon. For the first time for many years there has been a tolerable catch of salmon in the Baie de Chaleur and Ristigouche. The causes that have led to the increase of Salmon in this locality this season, are two-fold; the first arising from the partial protection that has been afforded, but more particularly it arises from the fact that the fishery had been brought to so low an ebb, that it has been considered by the Indians useless to go up the rivers to spear; hence, for these few years past there has been comparatively little spearing in the Ristigouche and the tributaries, in consequence of which the fish have spawned in safety, and thus the inhabitants have reaped a tolerably rich harvest this season.

The produce of forty salmon (if permitted to spawn in safety) in any river, must give a return of 2,000 barrels annually. It is a pity that the history of the Salmon is not more generally known, for it would induce a better care of so valuable a fish.

So great has been the abuse of the privilege granted to the Indians, and so glaring has been the evil, that I may with safety say that at the least 200 barrels of Salmon have been speared by them in the Baie de Chaleur, and sold to the shopkeepers at Campbelltown and Dalhousie, where unfortunately, at the present, there is no law to prevent the sale of speared Salmon.

There is nothing to justify the Indians in spearing Salmon, particularly in the Baie de Chaleur and the Ristigouche, for they have excellent farms, large grants of the best lands, and every thing to render them comfortable. Why then should they be permitted to destroy valuable public property?

The inhabitants along the shore, both of Canada and New Brunswick, were loud in their denunciations of the great abuse that has taken place, and with the exception of a few shopkeepers, they all requested me to put a stop to spearing by Indians or any others. In my intercourse with the people of New Brunswick, I found a strong desire to co-operate in the preservation of the fisheries, and they would gladly adopt similar laws to our own. So much do they now see the necessity of it, that the gentleman that owns the largest Salmon Fisheries on the Ristigouche, wrote to the New Brunswick government stating that he would willingly pay a license fee if the government would adopt a similar system to that of Canada; others are desirous of doing the same thing, and it is very pleasing to find that the Fishery Act of Canada is thought worthy of being copied by the sister Colony.

I am aware, also, that it is the desire of the New Brunswick government to co-operate with Canada as regards her fishery laws.

During the last Session, a Committee of the House did me the honor to write me on the subject, and had it not been that the House closed earlier than usual, doubtless similar laws would have been adopted.

The Honorable Mr. Hamilton and other gentlemen, members of the Council, and Assembly of New Brunswick, have promised to do all they can as soon as the House meets, to assimilate their laws to our own, indeed it had been my intention to have waited on the members of the government and to have submitted to them the importance of the matter; having told Mr. Hamilton that I thought of doing so, he immediately gave me a letter of introduction to the Provincial Secretary, but, conceiving it would be prudent to consult and take counsel with you, I decided on deferring taking any other steps before I had an opportunity of so doing.

My attention having been directed by the overseer, Mr. McEwen, to the difficulty he had experienced in relation to the River Ristigouche, I paid particular attention on my journey up the river to the position of the several islands, and if it be that the whole of them belong to New Brunswick, I can only say, that each one is named, and its position fairly laid down on a map; it will be difficult to determine which are islands and which are portions of the main land, for I could without difficulty have stepped across to some of the so-called islands, while on the others it was only necessary to lay a plank on which to reach some of the largest.

In appointing overseers on the Ristigouche it will be necessary that they have joint jurisdiction on either side, so that each may have a right of pursuing an offender should he escape from one side of the river to the other, otherwise, do what we may the law will be evaded.

In branching off from the Ristigouche to the Metapedia I was surprised and delighted to find a new road opened out and running along the banks of this valuable river; of the construction of this road I can only say that it equals almost any that I have passed over, indeed as far as I went over it, it was, where finished, like a bowling green, and reflects great credit on all the parties concerned in the construction.

It will be a boon indeed to the traveller who wishes to cross from New Brunswick or Bonaventure to the St. Lawrence, besides opening up a tract of valuable land, rich and fit for all agricultural purposes. It will also render valuable the fisheries of the immense Lake Metapedia, for a few thousand pounds could be easily got out of it, provided there are good roads for conveyance.

It is intended that this road shall come out at St. Flavien, if so, the journey will be made in half the time it now takes to cross the Metis road; besides the great advantage of being able to transport produce over the road, which it is impossible to carry over the old one.

My duties on the Ristigouche having now closed, and having given the necessary instructions to the overseers, I proceeded to Dalhousie, pledged myself to the people of New Brunswick that I would do all I could to bring about a similarity in the fishery laws, I left in the Steamer Arabian, and arrived in Quebec on the 6th October.

Before closing this report I would desire to make a few remarks, on a subject of much interest in relation to the inland fisheries.

It is more than twelve months since, a proposition was made to me, to lease some of the Lakes in the Eastern Townships. To the first application I dissented, being of opinion that the residents on the borders of the Lakes, should not be debarred from fishing.

A short time since, the same gentleman make a new and somewhat different proposition; and which had not that objectionable feature.

Having had an opportunity (on several occasions lately) of personal communication with the party, and having had his views and intentions more fully explained, I hesitated not for a moment, to submit the proposition to your consideration; feeling assured that by the adoption of the measures proposed, it was securing to the Eastern Townships in particular, such a means of prosperity, that few can realize.

You are aware that it is the intention of Mr. DeCourtenay (should he obtain the lease) to carry on the fisheries in the Eastern Townships on a very extensive scale; by the system of artificial propagation of the more valuable species of fish.

In one of the Lakes applied for there are large quantities of Sturgeon, a fish that is little valued in our locality, yet, nevertheless, very valuable; not only as food, (when properly prepared after the Italian mode) but also an account of the Isinglass that can be obtained from it, and which is only to be had in its pure state from the Sturgeon.

It is the intention of Mr. DeCourtenay to combine the manufacture of isinglass with the developement of the other fisheries.

When we consider the valuable results that have arisen by the adoption of fish breeding in European Countries; we may reasonably hope, that like results may arise by the adoption of the same system; more particularly as Mr. DeCourtenay has a thorough and practical knowledge of the whole subject (obtained in France and Italy), and is well aware of the capabilities of the waters which he is desirous to lease; the value of which will be enhanced by their vicinity to the Railroad, thereby opening the Markets of the South and West, for the consumption of any quantity of fish that may be bred in the Lakes.

Mr. DeCourtenay has been a resident in the Townships during the last two years, has given employment to very many labourers in the vicinity, and has the means and the intelligence to carry out the system, on the most extensive scale.

I certainly feel it a source of gratification, that a gentleman of such large experience and public spirit should come forward (at his own cost) in support of a system, which by the sanction of the Government I have inaugurated in Canada.

In relation to the licenses issued, it will be seen, that not more than one half the coast has yet come under the system owing to the lateness of the season, when we were able to commence operations. This season our duties must commence earlier, so that every portion of the coast will come under the operation of the system.

Experience having shewn me that in different localities the fish spawn at different periods, it will be necessary therefore to vest in the commissioner of Crown Lands the authority to determine the close season in the various Districts. In most places (though not in all) the fish have spawned by the month of December; it will be doing no injury to allow Trout fishing to begin on the 1st day of January in each year, unless in certain waters to be named by the Superintendent of Fisheries.

The compulsory inspection of Salmon has become a necessity, and which will do much to put a stop to the destruction of Salmon by the spear.

In relation to that section of the Act that refers to the Bounty, the accompanying returns will shew the number of vessels that have come under its operations during the past season. It will be seen that not all who obtained licenses have received certificates; owing in some places to their not having complied with the requisitions of the law, others may not have been able yet to prefer their claims. This boon has been greatly appreciated by the fishermen and an impetus has been given that will soon make itself felt throughout the whole fishing community.

When it is considered that France gives a bounty of ten francs—equal to eight and four pence per quintal; and the States from three to four dollars per ton; and when we reflect that by the operations of the Reciprocity Treaty, the United States fishermen have acquired the concurrent right of fishing in our waters, it is reasonable to suppose that some assistance must be rendered to our people to enable them to compete with those who receive so much assistance from their own Government. When the system is abolished by France and the United States, I shall no longer be its advocate.

There is one light in which to view the operations of the "Bounty Claim." By it, a nucleus is formed, which, if fostered may grow into large proportions; and as a necessity is felt for a Militia force, surely a little fostering care should be shewn to endeavour to create a Marine force, and as our fishermen are a very hardy and enduring race, we may easily, by a proper and systematic enregistration, form a Marine Corps, which would (if required) be of some service. As it is my intention to address you more fully on this subject I would now conclude—and have the honor to be.

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

RICH. NETTLE.

Supt. of Fisheries, L. C.

SYNOPSIS OF OVERSEER'S REPORT.

HENRY SIMARD—*Saguenay District.*

Commenced duties as Fishery Overseer 15th June, 1859.

17th June.—Served summons on Napoleon and Xavier Delaire of River St. John's Saguenay, for spearing Salmon in contravention of "Fishery Act."*

Caused Richard Morin to remove a second net that he had set in Ance la Barque in contravention of instructions received.

20th June.—Joseph Tremblay occupied a Station at Pointe Cariole without license ; gave him a certain time to pay the license fee ; the matter afterwards arranged.

Entered a complaint against Paul Ross (Indian) for fishing with a *Negog*, within the limits of Thomas Simard, Esq. ; summons granted by the Magistrate, and judgment rendered in default.

5th July.—Visited the Districts of Mal Baie.

10th " Went up the St. Marguerite river.

17th " Summons granted at my request against Jean Baptiste, and Jean Baptiste Philipe (Indians) for having taken Salmon in the River Marguerite, leased by —Blackwell, Esq. The parties were convicted in default by the sitting Magistrate J. Radford, Esq.

Again visited the St. Marguerite, having heard that Indians were spearing ; found that no spearing had taken place.

July 20th.—Went to Baie Laval with Mr. Whitcher who confiscated the nets of Peter McDonald, he having barred the river, and fished with nets the meshes of which were only three inches.

July 23rd.—Visited the River St. John in the matter of the Delaires.

July 24th.—Went to Baie St. Catherine, and confiscated the nets belonging to Francois Bouillianne the meshes being contrary to the dimensions necessary.†

Sept. 3rd.—On complaint of C. Cimon, Esq., M. P. P., went to the Grand Lake at Mal Baie to obtain evidence against parties who were charged with netting the said Lake for Trout ; could obtain no evidence sufficient to convict.

The Overseer has been engaged generally in the duties pertaining to his office.

ALFRED BLAIS—*Godbout Division.*

Appointed this day, June 13th, Fishing Overseer of the Godbout District ; and commenced my duties by assisting the Superintendent of Fisheries in marking off the limits of the Godbout Bay Salmon Fishery for the guidance of the Lessee, Mr. Haliday.

Went up the river in a canoe with the Superintendent to order off a party of Indians who were netting above the place where the Lessees of the Fly fishing portion of the river were encamped.

Served C. Gagnon with a summons to appear before the Supt. of Fisheries to answer a charge preferred by J. Poitras (the Lessee's agent) for persisting in placing a net within the limit assigned to his employer ; the defendant not appearing at the time of the return of the summons, he was convicted in default, and by the instruction of the Superintendent, removed the said net.

Went up the river, and was shewn by the Superintendent the place he had marked out, as a boundary, between the Net and Fly fishing districts ; above which I was not to allow any net to be placed, nor was Fly fishing to be allowed in the river set apart for netting.

Had occasion on several nights to watch the upper pools of the river ; heard that Indians had been spearing ; a *Negog* or spear found in that locality.

July 2nd.—The following parties were guilty of forcible entry by breaking into the premises of Antoine Blais, and taking therefrom a certain net, then in my custody, by process of law seized ; having been set in contravention of the Fishery Act.—Viz : Cyriac Gagnon, Joseph Nadeau, George Belisle, Andrew Belisle and David Belisle. These men should be punished, to deter others from such and other offences of a like nature.

* These parties were convicted before J. Radford Esq., J. P. and sent to Quebec Jail. (See Report.)

† This is the party who evaded the summons of the Magistrate and against whom an action is now pending.

Visited Trinity Bay stations, absent three days.

Up to the 1st August, few if any Salmon had been speared. Had no difficulty with Indians; but from that time to the 12th August, great destruction had taken place by the bad advice that had been given to them by Péro Babel the Missionary; I told Péro Babel I was sorry to find that it was only on his arrival, that the Indians had violated the law,--- at least openly. That I conceived his position should rather have led him to use his influence to cause them to respect the law, that the law must be maintained, and the men would certainly be punished, and thus, seeing that he had led them into error, he would lose all moral control over them.

Great injury has been done to the Lessees by the spearing that has taken place, for the river was swarming with fish, in consequence of the severe gales having carried away most of the nets in the bay and river. *

HUGH CHISHOLM---(*Moisie Division.*)

Tuesday, 28th June---Received an appointment as Fishery Overseer, and certain written instructions from the Superintendent of Fisheries.

Visited the different Schooners and cautioned them not to throw the fish offal in the river.

After repeated cautions, laid complaint before the Superintendent of Fisheries, who convicted and fined Mr. Dominique Lepage, for having thrown fish offal in the river Moisie.

Remained at the Moisie, until the close of the Salmon Fishing; saw all the nets up according to law.

In accordance with instructions, proceeded along shore to Mingan.

30 Miles east of Moisie, is Birch river extensive Cod-fishery, carried on by Mr. L'Esperance. The whole line of coast, from Moisie to Mingan, tolerably settled with Cod-fishermen from Gaspé and elsewhere, wherever Cod are fished for they are to be found; nine rivers between Moisie and Mingan, formerly had Salmon in abundance in them, they are now becoming scarce, something must be done to prevent their destruction; no nets should be set in small rivers. In Moisie river 175 barrels of Salmon taken, (formerly 600 to 700 barrels, see report). Codfish taken this season in Moisie Division, 38,386 quintals; very few Mackerel taken this season. Herrings tolerably numerous, but of an inferior quality. Whalers met with good success. Whales very numerous on the Labrador. Captain Stewart, of Gaspé, had killed seven, the others in proportion.

The whole of the Cod-fishermen on the coast, would prefer to pay a small rental for their Cod-fishery Stations, than to hold under the present system, their lots were marked off for them by the Superintendent of Fisheries, as they would not be liable to be trespassed on, when they have their limits terminated by measurement.

GASPÉ DIVISION.

BERNARD CONLEY,---(*Douglas Town.*)

Appointed "Fishery Overseer" for Douglas Town District, and received written instructions from the Superintendent of Fisheries.

Visited the St. John's river on different occasions, to see that the netting was carried on according to law.

* This Overseer has sent no return of the quantity of fish taken within his station. The Lessees of the Fly fishing limits killed above 150 Salmon. The Lessee of the net fishing was very unfortunate, having been compelled to purchase material which was of little use in the fishery, and also in consequence of the boisterous state of the weather during the principal run of fish. Quantity taken by Lessee in nets, 479 pieces.

Average number of Cod fishing vessels, frequenting the Godbout, each season, is 57, large and small.

In relation to the spearing, it is very much to be regretted that the Missionary should have acted so injudiciously, as he appears to have done, it is so contrary to every thing I have experienced from the other Missionaries, especially Péro Arnaud, who appears to be loved by the Indians, and much esteemed by all others.

My official duties have brought me in contact with very many of the Clergy, and from all I have received great kindness and assistance, and it appears to be their anxious desire to aid, with all their influence and power, the operations of the "Fishery Act."

R. NETTLE

* N
visited.

In former years, 70 barrels of Salmon were formerly taken by one fisherman in the St. John's river.

Indians should not be allowed to spear Salmon; they find a ready market in Gaspé Basin, for the sale of speared Salmon.

Salmon nets should be up by the 15th July.

Present occupants of stations, desire to have their licenses renewed as they look for more success, now the fisheries are protected.

JOHN GENMEL,—(*Mal Baie.*)

Great destruction has been committed heretofore, within the Township of Mal Baie, by the killing of Salmon and Trout by every illegal means.

Visited the river at the "Barachois" several times, and took every trouble to warn the fishermen against illegal fishing, and at the same time shewed them that the "Fishery Act" was made for their benefit, and to increase the quantity of fish, and that, by their carefully observing the law, they would in a short time find the coast and rivers, plentifully supplied with Salmon.

One person took 64 Salmon from the Spawning Ground last fall; he will be strictly watched this season.

Spearing eels in rivers by torchlight should be prohibited, as it is only a blind to evade the law.

Would respectfully suggest, the compulsory inspection of all Salmon, and that if one speared fish be found in the barrel, the whole should be forfeited, and the owner fined.

JAMES REMON, (*Pabos Division.*)

Received appointment as Fishery Overseer for the Pabos District, with written instructions from the Superintendent of Fisheries, in relation to the duties of my office.

Visited the whole of my District, and notified all parties to fish in accordance with the Fishery Act, which I explained to them.

Received complaints from parties that obstructions were placed in the entrance and channel of the Grand River. My jurisdiction did not extend to that river.

Took proceedings against certain persons who had been netting the upper waters of the Little Pabos. They were convicted by the nearest Magistrate and fined.

Mill Dam on Grand River, belonging to the Gaspé Mining Company—Charles Kelly, Esquire, Agent, and no fishway attached thereto.

Warned the Codfishermen, that a heavy penalty would be enforced if they continued to throw the "offal" in the Salmon rivers.

Notified all parties interested that they would be required to take out "licenses" to fish for Salmon the ensuing year, which they desire to do. *

WILLIAM PHALEN, (*Port Daniel Division.*)

Received an appointment as Fishery Overseer for Port Daniel district, and according to instructions visited the whole of the Salmon fisheries in my district.

Besides the Coast fisheries there are three rivers—West, Middle and East.

The Saw mill on West river prevents the Salmon from coming up—owner, William Carter, Esquire. No fishway attached; according to instructions from Superintendent of Fisheries, I served the owner with printed notice. Salmon steps to be built early in the Spring, as soon as the river is low.

Saw mill on East river, no obstruction to Salmon.

Visited all the fisheries on the 1st August, and saw that all nets were up.

Notified Codfishers not to throw offal in the rivers, caused great excitement, especially among the women; told them the consequences, when they considered it better to conform to the law.

Had a meeting with Mr. Dimock, (fishery overseer for New Richmond,) at the office of Mr. Marlet, Advocate, in relation to the affair of Mr. Hamilton, who was said to have bought a quantity of speared Salmon, of the Indians. Mr. Dimock will prosecute if evidence can be found.

* No licenses have been issued in Baie de Chaleur this season, time not permitting it being visited.

A resolution test chart featuring various patterns of vertical and horizontal lines. The patterns are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some patterns being larger and more prominent than others. Each pattern is accompanied by a numerical value, likely representing its resolution or frequency. The values include 1.0, 1.1, 1.25, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0, 2.2, 2.5, 2.8, 3.2, 3.6, 4.0, and 4.5. The patterns consist of groups of parallel lines, some of which are thicker or more widely spaced than others.

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RALPH DIMOCK—(*New Richmond Division.*)

Acting under the authority vested in me as Fishery Overseer, I proceeded up the Grand Cascapedia, and caused the removal of certain nets set in the river above tide water.

Visited the Shore Fisheries and caused a bag net to be removed.

After the removal of the net, the inhabitants and fishermen expressed their gratification at the interest the Government has taken in the Fisheries, seeing that no foul fishing would be allowed.

Caused the doors to be placed in the nets as prescribed by regulations.

Drove to the Bonaventure River, caused the nets of E. Porrier to be removed, the same being illegal in size of mesh, and placed as a barrier to the main channel.

Several of the nets in the harbour being placed contrary to law, and some of them being too small in mesh; caused the illegal ones to be removed, and the rest set in conformity with the law.

Notified R. Montgomery, Esq., not to allow his men to throw Mill rubbish in the River, Mr. Montgomery complied with the law, and expressed his satisfaction with the Act.

Visited the Little Cascapedia, and found all correct.

Laid a complaint before N. Cavagnah, Esq., J. P., against Mr. Arsineau, for having extended his net further into the main channel of the river than the law allowed—the Magistrate ruled that two-thirds of the whole breadth of the river might be occupied. *

Feeling convinced that the navigation was impeded, and the channel obstructed by this net, I told them I would send for Captain Fortin. Soon after Mr. Arsineau called on me, and said he would place his net where directed, which was accordingly done and the channel was left clear. Mr. Lynd caught a Salmon 4 feet 8 inches; all that have been taken in this district have been large fish.

August, 8th.—Entered a complaint against B. Zest for netting Salmon out of season, and the charge being fully proved before H. Mandersen, J. P., he was convicted and fined \$13.00 and costs, which were paid.

" 12th.—Searched the premises of R. Montgomery, Esq., for speared Salmon, but found none.

" 30th.—Seized 13 Salmon that had been speared by the Indians.

September, —Obtained judgment against James Harrison for spearing Salmon—penalty and costs \$13.25, which was paid.

" 21st.—Seized two barrels of speared Salmon on the premises of A. Arsineau, and on complaint before N. Cavanagh, Esq., J. P., the owners of the Salmon (Mr. Lawlor, plasterer, of Quebec, and A. Arsineau) were convicted and the penalty paid.

Gave the speared fish in charge of the Magistrate; awaiting orders from the Superintendent of Fisheries.

" 28th.—Obtained a summons for Louis Méshell, senior, and Louis Méshell, junior, for killing Salmon with spear; and handed them to the Bailiff for service.

Went to New Carlisle in the matter of Mr. Hamilton, who was reported to have bought a quantity of speared Salmon from the Indians: sufficient evidence will, I think, be obtained to convict Mr. Hamilton of the offence.

Notified the fishermen that they must be prepared to take out licenses this coming Spring; they are all desirous of doing so, and wish that their different stations should be allotted to them.

Having received instructions from the Superintendent of Fisheries to continue the prosecution of the parties (Méshell) referred to above, I was much indebted to Captain Fortin, who sent his men and had them brought before the Magistrate, before whom they were convicted and the penalty paid.

FINLAY COOK,—(*Maria Division.*)

When appointed Fishery Overseer, proceeded up the Ristigouche with A. McEwen, Fishery Overseer for the Nouvelle Division, having heard that Indians were spearing and white men were dragging the rivers. Found that the Indians were spearing great quantities of Salmon, was not able to prevent them, as they came down the New Brunswick side

* Wrong judgment. A portion of the river channel must be left open, equal to one-third the whole breadth of the stream.

of the river and sold their Salmon in Campbelltown. Unless the Fishery laws of both Provinces are the same, no good can ever be done.

Visited all the Stations within my own Division, and found them all fishing in accordance with the law.

The Indians have speared a large quantity of Salmon in Canadian waters, and have, during the night time, taken them to Dalhousie and Campbelltown.

At the close of the netting, visited my Division, and saw that all the nets were taken up.

The fishermen are all willing and desirous of complying with the law, which they know to be for their advantage.

ARCHIBALD McEWEN,—(*Nouvelle Division.*)

Immediately on my appointment as Fishery Overseer, I proceeded up the River Ristigouche, by the advice of John Meagher, M. P. P., as the Indians were spearing large quantities of Salmon.

The Indians having heard of my visit kept on the New Brunswick side of the river.

For three weeks they had been spearing large quantities of Salmon by torchlight, and had sold them to the shopkeepers and traders in New Brunswick. The inhabitants on both sides of the river destroy large quantities of Salmon by means of drag nets while the fish are on their spawning beds.

Until New Brunswick has the same laws as Canada it will be little use to attempt to save the Salmon Fisheries in this Division.

The net-fishing in the Ristigouche and Baie de Chaleur has been better this season than for many years before. One stand of nets at Cross Point has averaged a hundred a day for three weeks.

No spearing or drifting should be allowed under heavy penalty.

Visited the various Stations in my Division and found the nets to be set in accordance with the law, except in a few cases where they overlapped.

The people are all pleased with the care the Government are taking to preserve the fisheries, and the people of New Brunswick would gladly have the same laws.

If all the Islands in the River Ristigouche belong to New Brunswick it will be difficult to determine what are Canadian Fisheries, and which belong to New Brunswick; however, as they are mostly above tidal water if joint authority be given, and the laws are made the same, it will be a very little matter, as most of the evil is done above the tide waters, and where the fish go to spawn.

THOMAS BOYLE, (Temporary Overseer),—(*Gaspé Basin Division.*)

Commenced my duties in the River St. John, North Shore.

Aug. 1st.—Visited the different stations in the Division assigned to me, saw all the nets were up, people willing to comply with the law, tho' with some occasional reluctance.

Observed fishing lights in different parts of the rivers on several occasions; visited them and found they were fishing for eels.

Oct. 24.—Caught two men spearing trout, informed the nearest Magistrate, who let them off, it being their first offence.*

It will be seen that the Gaspé Whalers have been again successful in their season's operations; the total quantity of oil from 27 whales, being 1,641 barrels. Total value, at \$16.00 per barrel, \$26,256.00.

* Wrote to the Overseer for the names of the parties who had broken the law, and also of the Magistrate who had "let them off."
R. N.

The following are the returns from Gaspé, New Carlisle, and Magdalen Islands; the fish being generally exported to the Mediterranean, the West Indies, and to South America.

GASPÉ.		Quantity.	Value.
Fish.—Dried and Smoked		78185½ cwt.	\$236720
do Pickled in Barrels		2427 do	1928
do Oil.....		6140 gal.	3042
N. B.—Whale Oil is generally taken to Quebec market.			
NEW CARLISLE.			\$241690
Fish.—Dried and Smoked		52279 cwt.	\$171212
do Pickled in Barrels.....		14550 do	21468
do Oil		29109 gal.	12216
MAGDALEN ISLANDS.			\$204896
Fish.—Dried and Smoked		12429 cwt.	\$29271
do Pickled.....		101380 brls.	215485
do Oil		27071 gal.	15490
do Skins, (Seals, &c.).....		5515	5097
QUEBEC.			\$265343
Fish.—Dried and Smoked		116 cwt.	\$1272
do Pickled.....		175 brls.	1502
do Oil.....		238 gal.	140
MONTREAL.			\$2914
Fish.—Pickled.....		593 brls.	\$7473

The quantity of fish taken by the vessels of other countries, is more than equal to the quantity exported from our own ports; and for home consumption, the quantity may be estimated at about 175,000 cwt.

The Returns can never be correctly given, until every vessel shall be compelled to enter the Custom House, and give correct Returns. Probably one third of the coast fishing vessels, arrive in port, and never think of entering their cargoes, which all should do without exception; for never can Quebec take her proper position, as the emporium of the fish trade, unless all vessels enter their cargoes at the Customs, and compulsory inspection be had on all sorts of fish.

The terminus of the Grand Trunk Railroad being now at Rivière du Loup, will greatly facilitate the operations of the fishing interests, for with little difficulty the markets of Upper and Lower Canada, may be supplied with fresh fish every day, consisting of Salmon, Mackerel, Cod, Halibut, Herrings, and indeed with almost every variety of fish, and it will become even more valuable should the Grand Trunk operations proceed towards Rimouski or Métis.

RICHARD NETTLE,
Superintendent of Fisheries, L. C.

APPENDIX 33.

ANNUAL REPORT OF PIERRE FORTIN, Esquire, Magistrate, Commanding the Expedition for the Protection of the Fisheries, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, during the season of 1859.

The Government schooner "La Canadienne" which I have the honor to command, was ready to sail on the 7th of May, but a north-easterly gale detained us in the harbor of Quebec until the 10th, when the wind, changing to the south-west, enabled us to set sail for the Gulf of St. Lawrence; and on the morning of the 14th, we cast anchor at Percé.

A portion of the coast of the District of Gaspé was covered with snow; the weather was cold, and the spring backward. The codfish however had already made its appearance on the banks nearest to the land, and our fishermen were at work.

The herring, which at this season is used as bait for the cod, was plentiful, and I was told that codfishing promised to be remunerative in the Bay of Chaleurs.

We left the same evening for the Magdalen Islands, and on the morning of the 16th, we dropt our anchor in Pleasant Bay. I at once visited Amherst Harbor, with Mr. Fox, the Collector at that port. It was already crowded with fishing vessels—we counted one hundred and fifty schooners at the least, most of them from Nova Scotia, and especially from the Gut of Canso; the remainder were from Prince Edward's Island, the United States, and the Magdalen Islands; nearly one hundred other vessels had already left that port, some fully loaded, and the remainder half loaded with herring.

The herring had been quite as plentiful this spring, in Pleasant Bay, as during the preceding years, but our fishermen had not been able to take them in such quantities as last year, owing to the great number of seines that were in use, and interfering with one another. Herring fishing had commenced about the end of April, which was somewhat earlier than usual, and had just closed, although the day previous to my arrival at the islands, there had been taken, at a single haul of the seine, enough to load fifty small boats.

I have already remarked in several of my reports, that the herring taken in the spring as they come close to the shore, to deposit their eggs, in convenient places, in shallow water, were small and lean. Though not so valuable as those taken in the autumn, they form a most important article of export to warm climates, particularly to the West Indies, where fat fish cannot be preserved.

Another advantage with this fish, is the facility it affords of being salted in bulk, that is to say, that on its being brought out of the water, it may be thrown into the hold of the vessel without being drawn. It is necessary however to cover it with a thick layer of salt. It can then be kept for three or four weeks, and even for several months, and it is often conveyed in that state to the markets of Nova Scotia and the United States, but generally, the fishermen, on reaching their homes, with the assistance of their wives and children, put the herring in barrels before they sell it. It is then worth about ten shillings, or twelve shillings and six pence per barrel of two hundred pounds. When in the hold of the vessel, it can be bought for three shillings for every two hundred pounds weight.

Early spring fishing of the herring in Pleasant Bay, and in the Bay of Chaleurs, has the advantage of being generally remunerative, without interfering with the cod fishery, which does not commence until a few weeks later. I particularly recommend to our Canadian Shipowners who fit out vessels for the fisheries, to send them by the end of April, in time for the herring fishery at the Magdalen Islands, and to go and sell their cargoes in Halifax, where they will often realise a sufficient sum of money to buy their fishing tackle, and all the salt required for the season.

The schooners of Amherst Harbor and of House Harbor, fitted out for hunting seals on the floating ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, had returned in the beginning of May from their hazardous expeditions, each vessel bringing the spoils of from two hundred and fifty to six hundred and fifty of these amphibious animals. A number of these schooners had been obliged to proceed long distances in quest of ice-fields; some had reached the Straits of Belle Isle, others the open sea, beyond the Island of Cape Breton. A schooner belonging to that fleet and quite new, was literally cut to pieces by the ice off

Sydney; fortunately the crew of the ill-fated vessel was picked up by another schooner sailing in company.

The proceeds of the seal fishery this year, at the Magdalen Islands, are estimated at about six thousand seals, worth more than twenty thousand dollars, divided between about two hundred and eighty fishermen.

The latter can very seldom take any part in the herring fishery, as they are busy melting their oil when that fish appears.

On my arrival at the Magdalen Islands, I was required to take cognizance of a case of assault and battery; and on the 19th, I settled a difficulty between two fishermen, on account of damage done to a fishing boat by a schooner.

I have already stated that there were about one hundred and fifty schooners in Amherst Harbor, on my arrival at the Magdalen Islands. Amherst Harbor is known to be small and shallow, its entrance being only nine feet deep and very narrow. These one hundred and fifty vessels had to be placed in regular order, so as to allow a free egress and ingress to vessels, and also (which was of still greater importance,) they had to be prevented from throwing their ballast into the harbor. Both duties I performed.

I was told that ballast had been thrown in previous to my arrival, but then there was no one to enforce the requirements of the Fishery Act, and the guilty parties could not be found. The inhabitants, however, entertain every hope of being able to put an end to this very injurious practice, even during my absence from the islands, now that the municipality of the Magdalen Islands have named a Harbor Master, whose duty it will be to watch and superintend all vessels at anchor in the harbor, and report any infringement of the law.

On the 19th, having left on shore one of my officers, Mr. F. Bouchette, with four men, to assist the Collector of Customs and to maintain order in the harbor during my absence, we sailed for the Bay of Chaleurs; and on the following day we cast anchor at Paspebiac.

There were in the harbor, three barks, three brigs, four brigantines and seven schooners. All these vessels were employed in fishing, in the importation of goods or fishing tackle from Europe, or in conveying dried fish to foreign markets. Two of them were preparing to sail for the Brazils, with cargoes of dried cod fish packed in barrels and pressed. I tendered my services to the Collector of Customs and other public officers, and having left with the master carpenter in the employ of the Messrs. Robin, the measure for a fore-top-mast, to re-place the one carried away by a gale of wind on the morning of the 16th May, we left on the 21st and arrived the same evening at New Richmond.

On the 22nd I repaired to the Indian village at the mouth of the Grand River Cascapedia, and there I explained to the Indians assembled the provisions of the fishery laws, and particularly the Regulations for the Salmon Fisheries adopted by the Governor in Council. They all appeared to be satisfied with the regulations, excepting only the one prohibiting the sale of fish speared by torchlight; they, however, pledged themselves to observe them faithfully. I next visited Mr. Dimock, an able and zealous magistrate, settled on the Grand River Cascapedia, who informed me that not a single salmon had been killed, to his knowledge, on the Grand River Cascapedia, last year, after the month of July, and that during the spring of the present year, the salmon was seen going down to the sea by hundreds, and in greater numbers than ever, which proved that salmon had not been killed as formerly, during autumn and winter, and had not been disturbed in the places where they had resorted to spawn and perform the important act of reproduction. Mr. Dimock also promised to do all in his power to enforce the observance of the fishery regulations.

On the 23rd I went to Bonaventure, where I met the principal inhabitants of the place. Mr. Kavanagh, J. P., informed me that my visits of last year to the Bonaventure River had prevented, to a great extent, the illegal destruction of salmon. I distributed copies of the Fishery Act, and received assurances on all sides that its different provisions would be enforced. I reached Paspebiac the same evening, and remained there until the 27th. Caplin had already been caught at Paspebiac and at New Carlisle. It was used to a certain extent as bait for the cod fish, but the greatest portion was used as manure and is said to fertilize the ground to a very high degree.

At Carleton, Maria and Caplin River, the herring fishery had been pretty good; at Bonaventure and Paspebiac it had been indifferent.

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Everywhere on the shores of the Bay of Chaleurs, parties were preparing expeditions for the cod fishery on the north shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence; but Bonaventure, Paspebiac and Port Daniel supply the greatest number of fishermen, who, in the spring of the year, leave their homes and families to go and pursue their arduous calling on the coasts of Labrador, which are so inhospitable, but at the same time so rich in fish of the finest description; and they return in the autumn with the fruits of their labors.

This year, the number of fishermen leaving for those shores was greater than ever, on account of the great abundance of cod fish of late years. They took with them the timber and other requisites for the formation of new establishments.

We reached Percé on the morning of the 28th, and on the same evening we cast anchor in Gaspé Basin.

On the 29th I went to the Anse-aux-Cousins and the Anse-aux-Morts to see some Indians settled there to the number of seven or eight families, and employed in salmon fishing in the North-west and South-west Rivers. I explained to them the various provisions of the Fishery Act and Regulations, relative to the preservation of salmon, particularly insisting on those prohibiting the taking of salmon after the first of August, which provisions though allowing the Indians to kill these fish before that period with the spear by torch-light, prevent them from selling them to white men.

This last provision of the law meets with strong opposition from the Indians, and I feel persuaded that it will be very difficult to enforce it, as they can carry their speared salmon to Gaspé Basin during the night, where they can easily find parties who, for goods of a trifling value, not only buy the fish already taken, but secure it before hand, although aware that the law forbids such a practice, and that they are encouraging the wanton destruction of the finest fish in our waters. It is well known that salmon killed with the spear bring only half price.

Being obliged to sail for the Magdalen Islands, to be there during the mackerel fishery, I was unable to grant licenses for salmon and trout fishing in the rivers that empty themselves into the Bay of Gaspé, in pursuance of the instructions received from the Crown Lands Department, and dated, Toronto, May 11th, 1859; but I caused notices to be put up, that I should return about the 12th of June to attend to the matter.

Several vessels from Europe with salt and fishing tackle, were at anchor in Gaspé Basin. On the 30th May, at 3 p. m., we set sail, and at 12 o'clock, noon, on the following day, we dropt our anchor in Pleasant Bay. During my absence, the officer I had left at Amherst had succeeded effectually in maintaining peace and order in the harbor, where no ballast had been thrown to his knowledge. Complaints were made that several vessels riding in the bay obstructed our fishermen, and hindered them from setting their nets for the mackerel in a satisfactory way, and that the crews of these vessels were in the habit of visiting, during the night, the fishermen's nets near to them, and appropriating the fish to themselves; however, these complaints could not be substantiated.

On the 1st of June, at 6 o'clock in the morning, we were under sail, and I visited ten schooners, at anchor, some in Pleasant Bay and others in the offing. I caused the first to leave, and distributed to all copies of the Fishery Act. I warned the crews not to throw the offal of the fish into the water near the fishing grounds, and not to use any set lines or bultow lines in contravention of the law.

From thence until the 9th, when I left the Magdalen Islands, I was occupied with my officers in enforcing the observance of the regulations made by the Governor in Council in the month of May last, applying specially to the Magdalen Islands, and in particular to Pleasant Bay.

Our object was to keep free the entry of Amherst harbor and that part of Pleasant Bay situated opposite, as also the channel of Sandy Hook, and to prevent the nets from being set less than two hundred yards from each other, with a view of allowing the fish a free passage to the shore, and enabling vessels to come into the harbor.

There were upwards of three thousand nets set in Pleasant Bay, the greatest number belonging to foreign fishermen. As I have already stated, there were in Amherst Harbor about one hundred and fifty schooners, of which about a hundred had been engaged in the herring fishery.

The crews of these vessels amounted together to at least fifteen hundred men, a portion of whom had never come before to the Magdalen Islands. Many of them were not acquainted with the provisions of the Fishery Act, and very few knew anything at all about the new regulations. We had to make them known,—and above all, to cause them to be observed. We all set to work, my officers and myself. Almost every morning we got under weigh and cruised in the channel, with a view to keeping it free. I ordered those I saw under-running their nets, to place them beyond the limits that I had fixed, conformably to the Regulations, by means of buoys. They conformed to my directions unless prevented by stress of weather. When the owners of the nets were unknown, I caused them to be taken up by my men, and placed where fishing was allowed, taking care that they should experience no damage. I had the satisfaction of observing after a few days, that not only was there no obstruction to the navigation in Pleasant Bay, but that the space required by law had been kept between each net.

In the harbour, all the vessels were lying in order, so as not to impede the navigation; and, generally, peace and tranquillity had continued uninterrupted.

Notwithstanding all these precautions to secure to the mackerel a free ingress into the Bay, very few shoals of that fish were seen, owing to the frequent westerly and south-westerly gales, which kept them off the Banks, according to the opinion of old fishermen. Had the wind blown from the east, the mackerel would have been forced to seek shelter in the Bay.

The results of the mackerel fishery were therefore very indifferent. A few fishermen, whose nets happened to be on the line of passage of the shoals of mackerel, caught a quantity sufficient to indemnify them for the cost of their outfits; but the others caught only a few barrels.

It proved a severe loss to a great number of poor fishermen, who, in the hope of realizing large profits, (for mackerel was scarce in the markets of Halifax and Boston, and commanded a high price,) had laid out considerable sums on their outfits, and beyond the a few means of several of them.

For some years past hundreds of fishermen from Nova Scotia, and particularly from the Gut of Canso, have come to Pleasant Bay for the mackerel fishery, bringing with them very considerable outfits, some having fifty nets each. Unfortunately they have met with little success. They have come this year in greater numbers than ever; but as I have already stated, few of them have been successful. They were greatly discouraged; and few vessels are expected next year, in the month of June, at the Magdalen Islands.

It is not expected that the proceeds of the mackerel fishery in Pleasant Bay will exceed ———

On the 9th, a great number of nets had already been taken up; and, for some days past, little or no fish had been caught. The fishing season was considered to be over.

Other avocations requiring my presence elsewhere, I gave directions to weigh the anchor, and on the following evening we arrived at Gaspé Basin, having called at Percé on our way.

As early as the 11th, I directed my attention to the Salmon and Trout fisheries of the Gaspé rivers. I first visited the fishing stations in Gaspé Basin, and, on the following days, the south-west and north-west rivers, and the river St. John. I examined every salmon-fishing station; caused all nets that were too close to each other to be removed, and insisted upon there being a distance of at least two hundred yards between every net that remained in the water. I also took particular care that no obstructions remained in the main channel. Afterwards I granted to each occupant of a station a license to fish for Salmon and Trout. I fixed the upper and lower limits of each fishing station, in order to remove all pretext of dispute between neighboring fishermen. The prices of the licenses were proportioned to the importance and value of the stations higher prices being charged to parties occupying fishing grounds at the entrance of the river, where fish are caught in greater abundance, and lower prices to others.

On the 16th, I despatched my long-boat, under the command of an officer, to the Peninsula to examine all the fishing stations of that locality, and direct the fishermen to call on board for their licenses. As they came opposite the Bluff, a squall from the north-west upset the boat, and out of seven men four only could be saved.

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Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts made and the prompt assistance rendered by Captain H. Boulanger, whose schooner (the Eugénie) happened to be riding at anchor close by, three of the crew disappeared for ever in the deep. I hastened with Capt. Bernier to the spot where the accident had happened, but our efforts to recover the bodies were fruitless. During the following days the boats crews dragged the bay, on a radius of half a mile round about the spot, and on the afternoon of the 18th they picked up the body of Calixte Fortin. He was buried on the 19th, in the cemetery at Gaspé.

Having left directions for the suitable burial of the others, should their bodies be recovered, I gave orders to set sail for the north shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence; at 8 o'clock p.m. we doubled Cape Gaspé, and on the following day we cast anchor near Mingan.

On the 20th, I visited the Mingan river. The Hudson's Bay Company had not set any nets this year, and the waters were so high that very few Salmon had gone up. Mr. Anderson, one of the superior officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, sent me the deposition of Mr. Comeau, an agent of the same Company, in which that gentleman complained that certain fishermen (all of them British fishermen) were engaged in fishing in the Rivers of the Seigniory of Mingan and near the coast.

Mr. Comeau maintained that the proprietors of the Seigniory of Mingan had the exclusive right of fishing and hunting within the limits of that Seigniory, and that the Hudson's Bay Company, as the lessees of the Seigniory, had a right to the exclusive privilege of the proprietors.

As I was bound by my instructions to grant licenses to fish for Salmon and Trout in all the rivers on the north shore, as they were granted on the south shore, and also for fishing in the rivers of the Seigniory of Mingan, occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company, I did not deem myself justified in entertaining Mr. Comeau's complaint; but I told Mr. Anderson that I would protect, to the utmost of my power, all the property of the Company.

In the afternoon of the 22nd, I visited the fishing establishments at Long Point, enumerated in the following schedule, beginning at the east :—

Stations.	NAME OF THE OCCUPANT.	Number of Men Employed.	Number of Boats.
1	P. Vautier.....	13	4
2	Joseph Béliveau.....	6	2
3	Daniel Bisson.....	6	2
4	Placide Aspino.....	6	2
5	Clem Homes.....	9	3
6	Edouard Huart.....	9	3
7	James Walker.....	15	5
8	Jean Albert.....	6	2
9	Philippe Bisson.....	9	3
10	Patrick Day.....	5	2
11	Clarence Hamilton.....	50	20
12	Pierro Béliveau.....	9	3
13	Richard Mauger.....	9	3
14	John Baudin.....	3	1
15	Peter Couture.....	6	2
16	Réné Dupuis.....	2	1
17	Pierre Saint Cœur.....	3	3
18	Jean Marie Desobènes.....	2	1
19	Hilarion Roy.....	18	4
20	Antoine Roussy.....	8	3
		199	69

STATIONS lying a mile and a half West of Long Point.

Stations.	NAME OF THE OCCUPANT.	Number of Men Employed.	Number of Boats.
1	Thadée Loblane.....	3	1
2	Edouard Leblanc.....	3	1
3	Jean Basque.....	6	2
4	Pierre Rousseau.....	2	1
		14	5

It is worthy of note, that last year, there was on that part of the Coast, but one establishment, with eight fishing boats.

Codfish had not yet made its appearance at Long Point, and our fishermen were obliged to go and fish at the River St. John, a distance of ten or twelve miles; however, they found the fish sufficiently abundant on the fishing grounds. On the afternoon of the 23rd, I stopped at Thunder River, where I found, riding at anchor, fifteen fishing Schooners from Gaspé, Quebec, and the Magdalen Islands.

Three new fishing establishments had been formed at that place, two of which belonged to fishermen from St. Thomas. I settled a difficulty between two fishermen, respecting the right of possession to a fishing station.

Caplin had made its appearance at Thunder River, about the 16th of June, and Codfish a few days later, but not in great quantities, and the fishermen complained much of the absence of fish, on the fishing grounds since.

We left the same evening, and on the 25th, in the morning, we anchored at River Moisie. I immediately communicated with Mr. Holiday, the lessee of River Moisie, and having obtained information as to the number of fishermen that were fishing in the River, in contravention of the law, and of the places where they could be found, I prepared to carry out my instructions and put the lessee in full possession of the River, by requiring the other fishermen to remove their nets. I went up the River in the afternoon, and met with the following fishermen:

Francis Mabce,	with 2 nets,	had taken 5 barrels of Salmon,
Germain Dupuis,	" 3 " " "	8 " "
Felix Poirier,	" 5 " " "	12 " "
James McIsaac,	" 2 " " "	5 " "
Artémise Beliveau,	" 3 " " "	8 " "
James Thompson,	" 2 " " "	3 " "
James Conning,	" 3 " " "	5 " "
John Adams,	" 5 " " "	12 " "

I pitched my tent the same evening, near John Adams' Station, eight miles from the mouth of the River. Next day, I saw the following fishermen, viz:

Philippe Renouf,	with 2 nets,	had taken 5 barrels of salmon,
Hugh Conning,	" 3 " " "	4 " "
C. Mercier,	" 2 " " "	2 " "
Nazaire Dupuis,	" 2 " " "	7 " "

I arrived at noon at Messrs. Williams and Bacon's Camp, about 16 miles from the sea, and one mile below the first rapid. These gentlemen have purchased from Government the right of killing salmon with the fly. They had arrived on the grounds a fortnight before, but the waters were still too high to allow them to kill a single fish.

The following day, having made sure that there were no nets above those of Nazaire Dupuis, I returned down the river, and again visited the fishing stations. All the nets had been landed, and the stakes supporting the same removed. I saw on the east bank of the river the fishermen, Talbot and Glasgow.

The former,	with 5 nets,	had taken 6 barrels of salmon,
The latter,	" 5 " " "	20 " "

I caused to be removed and landed by my men one of Conning and Thompson's nets. P. Talbot and F. Mabec, removed theirs by my orders.

On the 28th, I took cognizance of a case of assault and battery. The defendant, who was fined ten dollars and costs, and, in default of payment, condemned to six days imprisonment, paid at once.

I had the pleasure of meeting Messrs. Nettle and Whiteher, who had just arrived at River Moisie, having after visited all the fishing stations along the western portion of the coast of the River St. Lawrence, as far as the Seven Islands, and granted licenses to parties fishing for salmon.

In the afternoon I sent one of my officers to remove Messrs. Conning and Thompson's nets, which were the last remaining in the river, excepting those belonging to Mr. Holiday, the lessee.

Mr. Holiday became thereby in full possession of River Moisie; and I had been enabled to fulfil my duty without meeting with any resistance from the fishermen (which would have been vain), but not without causing great discontent to most of them.

We left at 4 o'clock p.m., and on the 29th, in the afternoon, landed at Fall River, where Messrs. L'Esperance & Co. have founded another fishing establishment. They employ eighteen men with six boats.

The mouth of the river which is forty fathoms wide, is protected by a sand bank, covered with nine feet of water, at high tide, and four feet only at low tide, and can easily give shelter to ten schooners. The basin formed on one side by the mud, and on the other by the rapids, has a depth of from eight feet to three fathoms, at low tide.

This was the first trial of cod fishing at Fall River. It promises, like several neighboring coves, to become an excellent fishing station.

The lance had made its appearance on the 16th May; the caplin on the 20th, and the cod on the 15th of June. They all continued along the shores in great abundance.

Messrs L'Esperance & Co.'s men had met with great success, and taken quantities of fish.

The same evening we continued our voyage, and the next day, at 11 o'clock in the morning, we anchored at Shelldrake, in spite of a raging sea. I landed at LeGros Cove, and obtained the following information from the fishermen I found there:

Josiah Bebee, James Dow and William Ramier have settled on the River Manitou, with 4 boats and 12 men, and in a creek, a mile further to the east, W. Bebee is settled with 5 boats and 12 men.

On Shallop River, the following establishments are found:

WEST BANK.

- 1st Establishment—Abraham Lebrun, 4 boats, 13 men.
2nd do —Philippe Vibert, 7 do 21 do.

EAST BANK.

- 1st Establishment—Philippe Le Gresley, 5 boats, 15 men.

In Gibraltar Cove I found the following new establishments:

- 1st Establishment—Abraham Lebrun, 7 boats, 27 men.
2nd do —Charles LeClere, 5 do 14 do.

IN LEGROS' COVE.

Savage and LeGros, with 5 boats and 14 men.

AND IN PHILIP'S COVE,

- 1st Establishment—Philip Mabec and sons, 3 boats and 11 men.
2nd do —John Verdon, 4 boats, 12 men.

On visiting Shelldrake, in the afternoon, I found the establishments of last year, and two new ones, belonging to Clavet and Joncas. The first has 5 boats and 15 men, the second 4 boats and 12 men.

Mr. Robert Loisel, the proprietor of a fishing establishment on Thunder River, came on board to enter a complaint against one Frederick Obus, a fisherman, who had deserted his

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service. I received the complainant's deposition, issued a summons and placed it in the hands of one of my men. Obus appeared the same evening, and pleaded guilty; but as he promised to go back to his work, I imposed but a very slight fine upon him.

On the 1st of July I granted fishing licenses for salmon and trout to John Lebrun, Philippe Touzel, and John and Elias Collas.

I settled a difference between Captain LeCornu and Mr. Gallichon, of Shelldrake, and proceeded to Hope Cove, about one mile east of Thunder River. I found there the following new establishments for cod fishing, beginning by the west.

1st Est.	Donald Ross,	- - -	2 boats,	6 men.
2nd "	John & F. McCrae,	- - -	2 "	8 "
3rd "	Louis Vignet,	- - -	3 "	11 "
4th "	Pierre Gignac,	- - -	2 "	7 "
5th "	Augustin Gignac,	- - -	4 "	12 "

I proceeded to Jupitagan Island, where are settled Charles Robson & Co. with 4 boats and 12 men; and I next landed at Jupitagan River. That river is not more than 50 feet wide at its mouth, where there are rapids insurmountable to boats. It then becomes wider and deeper until it reaches the falls, about a mile distant from the sea; the latter are between 25 and 30 feet high.

James Girard, who has been settled for several years past at Jupitagan, is occupied in fishing for salmon in the river, and takes from six to ten barrels annually. I granted him a license.

I continued my visitation of the fishing establishments at Ridge Point Cove, where I found two new ones, one belonging to Joseph Arsenault, with 3 boats and 11 men, and the other belonging to André Arsenault, with 2 boats and 7 men.

At Magpie Hill Cove, and at the important place called Rambler's Cove, I found the same establishments as last year. In the Cove situated at about a quarter of a mile to the east, there is a new establishment belonging to Romain Joseph, with 2 boats and 7 men.

The last establishment I visited was that of John Ross, at the bottom of Magpie Bay, which gives employment to 20 men with 8 boats. I went up as far as the River Magpie, where John Girard has carried on the salmon fishery for a few years, and granted him a fishing license. The River Magpie yields from 30 to 60 barrels of salmon annually. At 10 p.m. we went and anchored at Long Point.

Codfish, caplin and launce had made their appearance at the usual periods of the year on the banks and along the shores of all the stations I had visited, but not in equal quantities everywhere. For instance, while large quantities of codfish were taken at River Moisie and Fall River, the fishing was indifferent at Shallop River and at Shelldrake, and still worse at Thunder River; but further to the east, in Magpie Bay and at the River St. John, our fishermen had been more fortunate.

The westerly and south-westerly winds, which blow from sea all along the north shore, and toss the waves in such a fearful manner as to prevent our fishermen from remaining on the fishing banks, had been very frequent since the spring; and at times the boats, manned by the most athletic fishermen, had been unable to go out of the coves more than once or twice a week.

The results of the cod fishery on this part of the North Shore were not, therefore, very favorable; but they may have improved, as it was then the beginning of the summer.

Wherever I had been, order and tranquillity had prevailed.

At Long Point, where I landed on the 2nd July, cod fish had not yet made its appearance. In the afternoon I went as far as Mingan.

The following day, which was Sunday, fifty schooners, which had been engaged for a few weeks in the cod fishery on the bank of Mingan, sailed into the harbor of Mingan, and anchored there. Fifteen were from the United States, the others from Nova Scotia.

In the afternoon I had the honor of receiving His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Edmund Head, who paid a visit to "La Canadienne" previous to his return to Quebec, on board the steamer "Napoleon."

In the morning the schooner "Lucknow," from Halifax, had run foul, on entering the harbor of Mingan, of a schooner belonging to an Indian named Philippe, and had broken her main mast and jib-boom. The latter having brought a complaint, I went on board, and on receiving the necessary information, I settled the matter.

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The master of the "Lucknow" agreed to replace the mast and jib-boom of the Indian's schooner.

On the 4th of July I sailed to the River St. John. I saw at the mouth of that river, and even further up, a great number of nets set in contravention of the law, some not being at the required distance of 200 yards, others too near the centre of the channel. I at once ordered the first to be removed, and the last to be set according to law; I also gave fishing licenses to the owners, charging them a fee proportionate to the importance of their respective stations. Next day I saw the parties who had set their nets at the foot of the rapids, and having made sure that the required distance had been kept between each station, I also gave them licenses.

Before leaving that river I gave copies of the Fishing Act to the fishermen, and I appointed Mr. Thomas Boyle, of Gaspé Basin, to attend to the observance of its several clauses.

At 8 o'clock p.m., we got under weigh and sailed for Natashquan, where we arrived at 7 o'clock the following morning.

At Frigate Harbor are to be found the following establishments:

1st establishment, Edouard de Laparalle & Bros., employing 18 men and 6 boats.

2nd " Wm. Lenfesty, " 10 " 3 "

3rd " John Hogan, " 4 " 2 "

I noticed in the smaller harbor the following vessels:

Schooner.	Where from.	Master.	Crew.	Boats.	Codfish.
May Flower.....	Gaspé	David Beard.....	10	3	18000
Free Town.....	Magdalen Islands.....	Joseph Bourgeois.....	8	2	25000
Marie Alma.....	Do.	Septimo Bernier.....	10	3	23000
La Perle.....	Eboulements.....	Zephirin Gagnon.....	10	3	19000
Mary Margatrol.....	Magdalen Islands.....	Jean Vignault.....	8	2	17000
Lucie.....	Cape Breton.....	Lazaro Leblanc.....	10	3	18000
Marie Hart.....	Chédécamp.....	Michel Maillet.....	11	3	40000
Euphrosine.....	Do.	Gilbert Hoche.....	8	2	26000
Clotilde.....	Do.	Jean Ramart.....	10	3	37000
Triton.....	Magdalen Islands.....	Charles Montigny.....	8	2	20000
Adelaide.....	Do.	Jean Bondrault.....	8	2	17000
Marie Louise.....	Do.	Jean Bondrault.....	8	2	23000
Espérance.....	Do. ..	Jean Vignault.....	8	2	14000
			117	32	297000

All the above schooners carried on their cod fishing operations opposite to the Point of Natashquan.

Mr. E. deLaperelle communicated to me the following information.

The Codfish had made its appearance at the usual time, about the beginning of June, and had been abundant, but the bad weather and the wind from the sea had seriously interfered with the operations of the fishermen, and their returns were very small indeed.

About the end of June, there had been as many as 80 Schooners at Natashquan. For a few days past the Codfish had not been so plentiful near the shore.

In the afternoon I visited the Salmon fishing stations on the Grand River Natashquan, and on the following day, having ascertained that all the nets were set according to the requirements of the law, I granted licenses to the following fishermen.

Samuel Foreman.....	Nova Scotia.....	6 Stations.....	\$30
Alexander Rumkey.....	Do.	6 do.	30
Edward Quigley.....	Gaspé.....	6 do.	30
Stephen Maloney & Co.....	Gaspé.....	3 do.	15
Robert Stanley.....	Gaspé.....	3 do.	15
			<u>\$120</u>

Salmon had abounded in Natashquan river; nearly 250 barrels had already been caught. I was informed that two fishermen had set Salmon nets 16 miles higher up, but I could not spare sufficient time to go and visit them, the river being too rapid, full of sand banks and difficult to ascend.

I received the deposition of Robert Baird, of the Schooner "May Flower," complaining that the American Schooner "Olio," Allan Lavander, Master, while sailing on the fishing banks, had, some weeks before, run foul of his fishing boat, then at anchor and occupied in fishing, and had upset it, thereby endangering his life and that of his man; and moreover had so seriously damaged his boat, that he had not been able to use it since. Allan Lavander was summoned to appear on the following day. On the morning of the 9th, Baird and Lavander came on board of "La Canadienne," and I settled the case by arbitration. The Defendant paid the Plaintiff eight dollars and ten cents damages.

Seven schooners from Provincetown, United States, had anchored on the Natashquan bank, where they carried on their fishing operations, to the great dissatisfaction of our fishermen, who protested against these parties remaining on the fishing banks day and night, and complained that they were in the habit of throwing overboard the offal of the fish, which practice had the effect of driving away the fish.

They wanted me to oblige the American fishermen to anchor in the harbor, and then to go out and fish in their boats. I told them that I had not the power to comply with their request; that the right of fishing was free, and that the Americans could fish on the Banks in their schooners as well as in their boats; but that all foreign fishermen, like British subjects, were bound to conform to the Fishery Laws and Regulations.

I went on board of the American schooners, and distributed copies of the Fishing Act, and warned the crews not to throw overboard the offal of the fish, but to come and deposit them close by the shore, where they would cause no evil. And I was enabled to ascertain that the American fishermen were not in the habit of throwing overboard the heads and refuse of the Codfish; having seen on the decks of their vessels several large boxes, where all the offal of the fish were placed until they could be conveniently thrown out, near the shore. I had found in the river Natashquan, the schooner "Victoria," Samuel Foreman, Master, and the schooner "Samuel Thomas," Alexander Rumkey, Master, both carrying foreign goods, on which I exacted duties. And whilst I was at the small harbour of Natashquan, I granted Olivier Rochette a license for the Agwanus River, and Sylvester Kennedy one for the Nabessippi River.

On the evening of the 9th I visited the Kekasca river and saw that all the nets were set in conformity to law, and granted a fishing license to Jean Lefevre.

On the morning of the 10th I repaired to Kekasca Bay and visited six American and five English schooners engaged in the Codfishery in the offing. Generally speaking they had been pretty successful.

In the afternoon I proceeded to the river Wash-Sheccootai. Prosper Morrisette was engaged in Salmon fishing on the West side of the river, near its mouth, but had caught only a few fish. I gave him a License.

I then ascended the rapids and having found about a mile below them, one Pierre Blais, fishing for Salmon with several nets, all set according to law, I granted him a License.

The river Wash-Sheccootai, has yielded this year Salmon weighing 9 and 10 pounds, whilst last year and the year before last more than half of the fish did not weigh above 5 or 6 pounds.

On the 13th, we came to Coacocho river, which I visited, and warned Jean Girouse, Joseph Aubé's fisherman, occupant of the river, not to fish with a weir, as it was contrary to law. I gave him a License for \$5. The river Coacocho for these few years past has not yielded more than 8 or 10 barrels of Salmon annually.

On the 14th, I proceeded to Wapitigun harbor and visited the Etamamu river which empties itself into the sea, at about a mile to the east. I granted a fishing License to Michel Blais, who has long since been the sole occupant of the river.

Michel Blais has 12 nets set in the river, but within the distance required by law. The channels are free, and even were he disposed to obstruct them, he could not do it, owing to the rapidity of the current, from which the river derives its name of Etamamu, meaning in the Montagnais language "Long-Rapids."

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There were six schooners in Wapitigun harbor, occupied in the Cod fishing. They were suspected of purloining the puffins' eggs and gulls' eggs on the Bird Islands, in the vicinity of Cape Whittle; but one of my officers, Capt. Bernier, whom I sent on board, found no signs of it in the holds or cabins of any of the schooners.

Michel Blais and Collas informed me that a schooner had come into Wapitigun harbor, and that her crew had been wholly occupied in purloining the eggs of wild fowl for the purpose of selling them in Halifax. She had left about ten days before, but with half a cargo only. She was the only vessel fitted out for the egg trade that had been seen on the coast, but the eggs had not escaped, for they had been taken by the fishermen passing by the Islands where the fowls had laid them.

On the evening of the 15th, we anchored in Mutton Bay. I visited on the 16th the rivers Great Mecatinna and Little Mecatinna, sometimes called Mutton Bay River. One Benjamin Reed has been fishing there for these twelve years past. I saw that his nets were set according to law and gave him a license for the two rivers.

He generally takes 25 barrels of Salmon in the large river, and from 4 to 5 in the small one.

One of my officers visited the schooners engaged in the Cod-fishing in Mutton Bay, and furnished the following return :

Schooners.	Masters.	From what Port.	Schooners.	Masters.	From what Port.
Lord Bury.....	B. Griffin.....	Halifax	Sarah	Boudraut	Magdalen Islands.
Wanderer.....	Harling	Liverpool, N. S.	Liberal	Babin.....	Arichat.
Augusta	Leblanc.....	Arichat.	Ste. Marie.....	Bissette	do
Eastern Star.....	McMullin.....	Halifax.	Dora	Mills	Halifax.
Banner	R. Abbot.....	do	Mie Mac Indian	J. Brick	Guysboro'.
Mariner.....	Renney.....	do	Apollo	Martel	Arichat.
Three Brothers.....	Rand	Sydney	Speculator	Prude	Halifax.
Eliza Hooper.....	H. Hooper	Halifax	Catherine	Samson	Arichat.
Bar	McMullin.....	do	Matilda	McKenzie.....	do
Delegate	C. Stewart	do	Emma	Iram Hobbs..	Prince Edwards Island
California	Lisk	do	Banquet	S. Griffin.....	Halifax.
Independence	Hewitt	Newburyport.	Idelia	Flake.....	Guysboro'.
Enterprise	Latham	Halifax.	Compages.....	Coon.....	Halifax.
Enterprise	Boon.....	Guysboro'.	Vesta	Mickinson.....	do

On the morning of the 17th, I went to La Tabatière, and visited the following schooners in Spar Harbor.

Marble Head.....	Levi McIntire	Thomaston, M	Sarah	Benj. Perry..	Shelburne, N. S.
Willow	Wm. Bunker	Mount Desert.....	Delnoagh.....	Wenil Bunker	Cranberry Islands.
Exchange	J. McKenney	Shelburne, N. S.....	Port of Spain.....	Henry Shultz	Shelburne.

Codfish had been tolerably abundant since the commencement of the season, about Mutton Bay, and all the vessels employed in fishing there had done well. At La Tabatière such quantities of Codfish had never been seen before.

Herring was making its appearance in several places. Everywhere tranquillity prevailed. During my stay at Mutton Bay I granted licenses for Salmon fishing to all parties following that business in the Bay or at La Tabatière, as may be seen in Schedule of Fishing Licenses granted by me this year, and annexed to the present Report.

On the 19th we weighed anchor and went to Esquimaux Harbor in the Little Mecatinna, where no vessels were found, and on the 21st we anchored in the Harbor of Bonne-Espérance. I visited the schooner "Labrador," John Cronan of Halifax, Master, and found on board foreign goods, which he intended to land on the Canadian shore. I informed him that I was a Custom House officer, and required him to pay the duty on the goods; but he refused, and I was under the necessity of seizing both the vessel and the goods. Some time after, however, John Cronan told me that he would enter his goods according to law, and I discharged the seizure.

We found the following vessels in the Harbor of Bonne-Espérance.

Schooners.	Masters.	From what Port.	Schooners.	Masters.	From what Port.
Tonada.....	Rider.....	Argyle N.S.	Speedwell.....	Dixon.....	Cape Right.
Zealand.....	Rider.....	"	Idelia.....	Flake.....	Halifax.
John Henry.....	Hutton.....	Halifax.	Lord Bury.....	Griffen.....	"
Progress.....	Gaten.....	"			

And in Salmon Bay Harbor the following:—

Schooners.	Masters.	From what Port.	Schooners.	Masters.	From what Port.
J. P. Johnston...	Noeldha.....	Newburyport.	Ellen Herbert...	Joy.....	Newburyport.
Harriet.....	Bickelman....	"	Native American	Simburn.....	"
Life Boat.....	Hatfie.....	"	Hezroon.....	Martin.....	"
Green Island....	Joy.....	"			

The following information I gathered from the fishermen:—

Codfish had been plentiful at Bonne-Espérance and at the Dog Islands, and still more so at Salmon Bay, where the fishermen from some American schooners had taken great quantities with seines, sometimes 30 or 40 quintals at a single haul of the seine. These vessels were consequently all loaded and ready to sail.

I visited St. Paul River and the salmon fisheries in the neighborhood, and granted licenses to the occupants of those stations.

We left in the afternoon and arrived in Blanes Sablons Cove at 10 o'clock P. M.

On the 23rd, I visited Fruing & Co's establishment—Mr. Fall, the agent, paid me the duties on the goods in their store. I next settled a difficulty between two fishermen residing at the bay, respecting the possession of a piece of land, and then proceeded to Little Harbor where I visited the vessels lying there, and the fishing establishments. Tranquillity prevailed everywhere.

In the evening, I crossed over to Wood Island, and went to Messrs. LeBoutillier & Brothers' establishment, and requested the agent to pay the duty on the goods I noticed in their store, all of which appeared to be foreign merchandize. He said that being under the impression that the whole of Wood Island belonged to Newfoundland, in as much as a Custom-house officer of that island had called two years before to collect the Customs duties, he could not accede to my request, until I gave him positive proof that the island formed part of the territory of Canada. For my part, I did not think it proper to act with severity and seize the goods before receiving further instructions from the Commissioner of Customs.

While I was engaged at Blanes Sablons Cove, one of my officers was visiting Bradore Bay. He found there 14 schooners, some of which were from St. Pierre; he asked our fishermen whether they were molested by the latter, and they answered in the negative. I therefore did not deem it necessary to order them away from our coast, particularly when a joint commission of English and French officers was engaged on the coast, in settling the difficulties existing between the fishermen of both nations. Codfish was abundant at Blanes Sablons Cove, and on the bank of the Belles-Amours—they had made their appearance two weeks before the usual time. Caplin had been very plentiful.

The firm of LeBoutillier & Brothers had on their stages 2,700 quintals of codfish, and the other establishments had also done well.

Herring had likewise been coming in for two weeks past; it was small though very fat. At a single haul of the seine, on the 21st, 600 barrels of that delicious fish had been taken at L'ance-au-Clair.

The mackerel had not yet been seen on the portion of the coast I had just visited.

The Spring Seal Fishery had been very bad at almost all the stations, owing to the backwardness of spring: the icebergs grounded near the shores and the winds constantly blowing from the land. A good seal fishing season can only be expected when strong winds, blowing from the sea, swell up the ocean and force the herds of seals to seek shelter in the bays and behind the points where our fishermen have set their nets. Neither had the Fall Seal Fishery of 1858 been attended with favorable results, owing to the severe frosts which had frozen up the bays and passes where our fishermen generally set their nets during the fishing season, that is between the end of November and the beginning of December.

We sailed at midnight to take advantage of a favorable wind, and were off St. Augustin the next morning, but not close enough to the shore to land. The wind was blowing from the east and the land could not be seen, owing to the fog.

On the 25th we set sail for the Magdalen Islands, and arrived there on the 27th, at one o'clock, P.M. I saw Mr. Fox who communicated to me the following information:

Cod fishing was very indifferent about the islands, owing particularly to the strong westerly and south-westerly winds, which had been very frequent and prevented the men from going out fishing.

For the last few weeks, the fishermen were beginning to take mackerel with the line and with nets, but not in large quantities. A great number of American schooners had visited the islands for the mackerel fishery since the beginning of July, keeping often at the east point and sometimes at the west point, and anchoring in Pleasant Bay during stormy weather. Some of these vessels had been very successful, the others had hardly taken anything. Complaints were heard from different parts of the islands of the depredations committed by their crews. At one place, nets had been stolen, at another, timber; elsewhere, fish had been taken out of the nets and carried away. Unfortunately, it was a difficult thing to discover the guilty parties, as the depredations were always committed during the night, and in the morning the vessels had put to sea and conveyed away the authors of these misdeeds. Order prevailed on the islands; a few schooners belonging to House Harbour had just returned from the cod fishery on the coast of Labrador, but not with full cargoes; they were to start soon for the herring fishery.

At 6 o'clock, P.M., we got under weigh, and at 3 o'clock, P.M., on the following day, we anchored at Percé. Codfishing had been very bad at Percé, Cape-cove and the neighboring stations, since the beginning of July; bait was also very scarce. There were no foreign vessels on the coast.

On the 29th, I visited Malbaie and Point St. Peter, and proceeded to the Basin on the 30th. There were in the harbor a few English ships and two American schooners. I remained at the Basin until the 2nd of August, to enforce the observance of the regulations for the salmon fishing. The nets had been removed in all directions as well as the stakes that supported them. The rivers were entirely free. In virtue of the authority in me vested by the Act 22 Vic., c. 62, I appointed Mr. Joseph Eden, of Gaspé Basin, Harbor Master of Gaspé. Mr. Eden, who is both active and intelligent, will prove a most useful officer for the harbor of Gaspé, where vessels arrive in great numbers every year, and many of them in ballast. The necessity for such an appointment had long been felt in Gaspé.

On the 2nd we crossed over to the north in the morning, and in the afternoon of the 3rd we doubled the west point of Anticosti, arriving at the Long Point of Mingan the next day. I visited the establishments of Mr. Clarence Hamilton and other fishermen.

Codfish had made its appearance at Long-Point about the 15th of July. It had been plentiful ever since, and our fishermen had taken great quantities, as much as fifteen hundred weight a day. There were only three vessels in the Port of Mingan. That evening we proceeded to the River St. John, which I visited on the 5th, to make sure that the salmon fishing was given over, and that the fishery laws had been observed. In the afternoon, a case of assault and battery was brought before me. Both plaintiff and defendant belonged to the schooner Annie Laurie, from Nova Scotia. The defendant was found guilty, and fined, and he paid immediately.

About forty schooners, two-thirds of them from Nova Scotia and the others from the United States, were very busy fishing for cod on the bank at the St. John, where it abounds. I sent one of my officers to visit them, and give them copies of the Fishery Act, and at the same time to

warn them not to throw the offal of their fish on the fishing banks, of which our fishermen complained very much.

On the 6th we started for Thunder River, and arrived there in the evening; but a very heavy sea, caused by an easterly gale, prevented our landing, and I gave orders to set sail for the southward. The next day, at 8 o'clock in the morning, we anchored at Fox River.

I saw Mr. St. Croix, the Custom House officer at that port, and Mr. Dumaresq. These gentlemen gave me the following information:

Codfish had made its appearance at Fox River and generally all along the south shore of the River St. Lawrence, in the beginning of May. It had been plentiful up to the end of June. Since that period, it had moved from the banks; but our fishermen could still take two or three quintals a day, when they could get fresh bait.

Only a few American schooners had visited that part of our shores; they had not in the least disturbed our fishermen in their pursuits. In the afternoon, I went to Griffin Cove. My remarks relative to Fox River, equally apply to this cove.

Several of the fishermen had differences together respecting the manner of setting their nets to take the herring, used as bait for the codfish. I explained to them the law on the subject, and they were satisfied.

On the morning of the 8th I landed at Cape Rosier, and proceeded to Grande Grève, where I met the proprietors of the principal establishments of that locality; after which we started for Gaspé Basin, and anchored there the same evening.

Order and tranquillity had not been disturbed at any of the posts I had just visited. There were only five vessels in the harbor of Gaspé, and not a foreign one.

We left on the 9th, at 4 o'clock in the morning. We stopped at 1 o'clock, P. M., at Percé, and at three o'clock we continued our route to the Bay of Chaleurs. The next day I visited the Grand Pabos River, to see that no one was engaged in salmon fishing, and in the evening landed at Paspebiac. "La Canadienne" remained there until the 15th for repairs and painting. I availed myself of those few days of forced interruption of my regular cruise, to visit, by land, a portion of the coast of the County of Bonaventure.

On the 13th I stopped at Bonaventure and gathered all the information I could obtain on the salmon fishery in the river of that name. I learnt with satisfaction that the Indians had not fished there since the end of July.

At New Richmond, Mr. Dimock, the zealous and active overseer of the rivers along that coast, reported quite as favorably with respect to the Cascapedia Rivers.

Codfishing in the Bay of Chaleurs, and particularly at Ruisseau Leblanc and at Caplin River, had not been so plentiful for many years past.

I must not forget to mention the splendid appearance of the country through which I had travelled from Paspebiac to Carleton; and I may add that agriculture has made great progress in that part of the Province within the last few years.

At New Carlisle, Bonaventure, New Richmond and Maria, I met with fields of wheat, oats and barley as well cultivated, and promising as favorable returns as in the most favored districts of Canada. Oats, especially, were of a most superior quality. It is known that on that coast where the soil is light, sandy, and of a reddish color, potatoes, turnips and swedish turnips grow and ripen to perfection, and therefore they are cultivated on as large a scale as any of the other productions of the country. The hay alone did not promise an abundant crop, owing to the drought in the spring. The lands along the sea shore only have as yet been cleared and settled. They had been equal to the wants of the inhabitants until lately, but now that the population has considerably increased, settlers have to leave the shores and clear lands in the interior of the country. Unfortunately there are no roads. The inhabitants, who are nearly all obliged to fish whenever they are not employed in cultivating their lands, in order to find sufficient means of subsistence, have no time to make roads. Government ought to come to their assistance. It must be borne in mind that it has thousands upon thousands of acres of most fertile land in the district of Gaspé, stocked with the most valuable timber, and which cannot be cleared and is consequently of no use whatever from the fact that settlers cannot reach it, for want of means of communication.

The opening of roads, coupled with the encouragement now given by Government to agriculture and the fisheries, would cause the population of that important district to

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double in a few years. I may safely say that the two counties of Gaspé and Bonaventure, can maintain, with the produce of their lands and their fisheries, a population of 100,000 souls.

In the afternoon, I embarked in "La Canadienne" at Carleton, and arrived in the evening at Dalhousie, where we remained until the 16th, in consequence of westerly winds.

On the 17th I went to Mission Point with Mr. McKeon the overseer of the Ristigouche River. We travelled up that river as far as the river Metapedia, to see that the fishing regulations had been observed. We were informed that the Salmon nets and stakes had been taken up everywhere, before the end of July, except at a fishing station at Cross Point; but these were removed the next day by my orders.

From the information received by Mr. McKeon and myself, it did not appear that the white fishermen had violated the Fishery Laws; but the Indians sold, contrary to the regulations, quantities of Salmon speared by torchlight. However, Mr. Daniel Fraser of Metapedia, assured us that he had not seen any Indians on the Metapedia river since the beginning of August, that is, since the close of the fishing season. But it could not be expected that one officer alone, though very zealous, could watch effectually over the rivers Ristigouche and Metapedia, particularly with the facilities of infringing the law offered by the close proximity of New Brunswick; that Province owning, at several points, more than one half of the river.

I have mentioned in several of my reports the many difficulties which presented themselves, whenever the fishing regulations had to be put in force, with respect to the rivers, or when parties infringing the law had to be prosecuted. These difficulties exist to this day, and perhaps to a greater degree, owing to the daily increasing numbers of settlers on the banks of the rivers. Until the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick agree to the appointment of a mixed commission, composed of an equal number of officers from the two provinces, having control and authority over the whole of the river Ristigouche and its shores and tributaries, and power to prosecute all parties infringing the fishery regulations, wherever they may be found, I fear much that it will be impossible to prevent the total extinction of the Salmon in those rivers formerly so full of fish.

The measure which I now take the liberty of strongly recommending to Government, is also earnestly solicited by the most influential Citizens of Campbelltown and Dalhousie, and amongst others Messrs. Fergusson, Botsford, Montgomery, Barbarie, Stuart and Hamilton.

On the 19th, we left Mission Point at 6 A.M., and arrived at Carleton at noon, having called at Dalhousie on our way.

At Carleton, I was required by Mr. Freer, the Deputy Sheriff of the place, to execute at La Nouvelle a Writ from the Superior Court at New Carlisle; the party against whom the Writ had been issued, had threatened to ill use and even to kill that Officer, if he attempted to put it into execution. I repaired at once to the spot with some of my men, and Mr. Freer served and executed the writ without meeting with any opposition.

In the evening we cast anchor at New Richmond. Tranquillity prevailed at this part of the coast, and Mr. Montgomery informed me that he had heard of no complaints on the River Cascapedia for infringement of the fishing regulations.

We reached Paspébiac the next day, and spent the Sunday there. On the evening of the 22nd we went to Bonaventure, and on the 23rd, I employed 15 of my men during the whole day, in clearing the eastern channel, (formerly the main channel) of the River Bonaventure, of trees and trunks of trees which had accumulated there in such quantities as to block it up almost entirely and divert its waters into the Western Channel. The stream which is so formed makes a long circuit and then washes away the sand and gravel at the entrance of the western branch of the river, accumulating them in such quantities on the bar during the last few years, that the depth of the water in the channel where the vessels pass, has much diminished. Hopes are entertained however that after the eastern channel shall have been restored to its former condition, the waters flowing in a straight line and with greater force into the sea, will carry away all the obstructions which impeded so seriously the entrance of the river, and will restore to the pass its original depth.

The Reverend Mr. Alain, who has contributed so much to the advancement and prosperity of the fine parish of Bonaventure, and who displays so much zeal whenever public

improvements are in question, took a lively interest in the success of my undertaking, and like myself, was of opinion, that all the obstructions existing in the channel of the river could be removed, and the body of water that formerly flowed into it restored to its original course, by making my men work at it every year for some years, when detained by business in Bonaventure or its neighborhood.

The wind compelled us to leave on the 24th, but we had already done much work. We sailed for Percé and arrived there the next morning. I found at the Post Office, the following letter to my address from Mr. Collas.

POINT ST. PETER, 20th August, 1859.

To P. FORTIN, Esquire,

Schooner "Canadienne," Percé.

SIR,—In consequence of opposition having been met with, in the execution of a warrant against one Peter Rail of Barachois, for having contrary to the provisions of the local Municipal By-law of the Township of Malbaie, ordained and made in April, 1859, cut hay and grass, on the Common of Barachois, I beg leave therefore to request your early presence here, in order to render assistance.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

ELIAS COLLAS, J. P.

I proceeded at once to Point St. Peter, saw Mr. Collas, and left with him three of my men, under the command of my boatswain, until my return from Gaspé.

On the 26th, at noon, we anchored in Gaspé Basin. All was quiet there. Only a few American Schooners had called at this Port.

Mr. Thomas Boyle reported that he had visited several times the rivers under his charge, and seen quantities of salmon. He did not know of any infringement of the fishery laws.

On the 28th, at noon, we left the Basin, and found in the Bay of Gaspé about fifteen American Schooners fitted out for the Mackerel fishery. We were informed that they had taken only a limited quantity of fish. Though mackerel were abundant near the coast, it appeared that no kind of bait would tempt them, and they would not bite at the hook. At 3 o'clock p. m., we arrived at Point St. Peter. I learnt that my men had captured Rail, on Friday morning; that he had been fined and had paid. We started the same evening, for Fox River, where we cast anchor the next day at 7 p. m. I at once took cognizance of a suit of John LeBoutillier, Esquire, against one Louis Fournier, of Fox River, fisherman, for having deserted the service of his master. He was brought before me, and pleaded guilty. I fined him ten dollars; and I had just closed the case, when a violent gale from the west-north-west, obliged us to weigh our anchor. I availed myself of it to proceed to the Labrador coast. On the 30th, at three o'clock, a. m., we doubled the east point of the Island of Anticosti, and on the morning of the 31st, I landed at La Tabatière, and then visited Mutton Bay, having first called at Red Bay, and at the harbor of Gros Mécatinna. In the afternoon, I sailed up the Grand River Mécatinna, where I found everything in order. There were only five fishing Schooners remaining in the harbor of Mutton Bay. The easterly wind detained us there until the 2nd, when the wind changed to the west. I reached St. Augustin the same evening, but too late to discover the islands where Messrs. Kennedy have their fishing establishments; and such a gale sprung up during the night, and it became so violent the next day, that we were obliged to go back to Mutton Bay, with the loss of our jib boom.

The wind having changed on the morning of the 5th, we entered Bradore Bay at half past three o'clock P. M. I landed at Mr. Jones' and obtained the following information. He had captured 270 Seals.

The Herring Fishery, as I have already stated, had commenced earlier than usual. Fish had been plentiful in Bradore Bay, but generally small, though very fat.

Fifty schooners, out of which one only from the United States, had been engaged in the Cod and Herring fishery in that Bay. They had all left heavily laden. The months of July and August had been very fine.

At the Blancs Sablons Bay the fishing had been as favorable as at Bradore Bay.

The crews of the only three remaining schooners were occupied in drying their Codfish on the rocks. Some Jersey vessels were waiting for their cargoes of dried fish intended for the markets of Spain and Italy.

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Out of the vessels that were engaged in the fisheries this year on that portion of the Coast of the Straits of Belle Isle, a large proportion were from Prince Edward Island. It is only since five or six years that the inhabitants of that Island have entered into the fishing operations on a large scale. But now they possess a fleet of fishing vessels, quite as well equipped as those of the United States and Nova Scotia. Such favorable results are due principally to the encouragement received some years ago from the Government of Prince Edward Island, by way of premiums on the tonnage of vessels. These premiums, it is true, are no more allowed, but the impulse was given, and the profits realized by those who first went into the fishing business encouraged others to follow their example.

On the 7th, in the afternoon, I sailed for Bonne Espérance. Not a vessel was to be seen there, nor at the Dog Islands. The day following we pursued our course towards the West, and at 8 o'clock P. M., we were opposite St. Augustin; but the sea was too rough to allow us to land and we were forced to continue our course. On the morning of the 10th I landed at Natashquan River, where we did not find any one. I was told by Mr. Littlelater, the Agent of the Hudson's Bay Company at that Post, that two fishermen who had set nets at the foot of the rapids, had fished on halves for the Hudson's Bay Company. I made him pay me \$5 for a license. That gentleman also informed me that all the nets and stakes had been removed from the Natashquan River before the 1st of August. He was not aware that the fishery laws had been violated. I went in the afternoon to the Harbour of Natashquan, and after visiting the fishing establishments there, I exacted customs dues from Mr. DeLaperelle, and Mr. H. Vignault, on foreign goods which they had just received.

At 3 o'clock P. M. we took advantage of a strong breeze from the South-East to sail for Mingan, where we arrived the next day at 8 o'clock A. M.

The Topsail Schooner Tickler was in the Harbor preparing to set sail for Spain, with a cargo of dried Codfish, taken and prepared on the North shore.

Having remained two days in Mingan to take in water and wood, we left on the 13th and landed at Long Point. The Codfish had disappeared a fortnight before, but the boats had taken upwards of 100 quintals each during the summer. Mr. Clarence Hamilton had 2,200 quintals in his establishment. I next went to the River St. John, where I found 6 schooners from Gaspé engaged in Codfishing. Codfish is not more plentiful on the banks of the St. John than at Long Point. The boats fishing at the River St. John have not averaged more than 81 quintals each. Nowhere did I hear any complaints. We pursued our journey towards the West, but we were becalmed at night and obliged to drop our anchor.

On the morning of the 14th a light breeze sprung up, which afterwards became so violent that we found it impossible to land anywhere along the coast; I therefore gave orders to direct our course to the Southward. At 11 o'clock A. M. there was quite a storm and the sea became terrific; and one of our boats was washed away from the davits and could not be recovered; shortly after our jib-boom was partly broken, and we had no alternative but to go back to Mingan, knowing that it was impossible to double the East Point of Anticosti, where the sea is always very rough and dangerous when the wind blows from the westward. The violence of the wind increased in the afternoon, and at about 4 o'clock we dropped two of our anchors in the harbor of Mingan. There were 6 schooners in the harbor, driven there by stress of weather. The fury of the wind re-doubled during the night, and having dragged our anchors about a cable's length, we cast a third one. A schooner which was riding to lee-ward of us had broken her cables during the night and drifted on the sand bank at the mouth of the river Mingan, but suffered no damage. The storm was still raging on the 15th; almost all the fishing boats at anchor at Long Point had broken their cables and were drifting away, some outside of the Island of Mingan harbor, others inside of it. I rescued some of the latter, but with the greatest difficulty, for at times the wind was so violent that the men could hardly hold their oars. In the afternoon the schooner "Bee," at anchor at Long Point, broke both her cables and went on shore in the harbor.

On the 16th the wind somewhat subsided in the morning, but was as high as ever in the afternoon, and two more schooners entered the harbor. At last, on the morning of the 17th, the storm ceased, and at noon the weather was almost calm. We set sail and stopped at Long Point. I enquired about the amount of damage caused by the storm of

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and obtained the following information:—The fishing establishments had not suffered, the stage head alone of Mr. Hamilton's establishment had been carried away by the waves. All the fishing boats, twenty in number, at anchor at Long Point, were carried away by the sea. About 12 were saved at Mingan, the others were lost. We left during the night, and on the following day we landed at Bridge Point Cove. The fishermen here had taken from 100 to 120 quintals of Codfish per boat. Neither Herring nor Mackerel had been seen.

I then sailed for India Rubber Cove, where are settled

Manuel Le Brasseur, 3 boats, 8 men, 300 quintals of Codfish

Fabien Duguay, 3 " 9 " 300 " "

The next place I visited was Indian Cove, about a mile to the west, where I found the following fishermen :

James Day, 4 men, 2 boats, 200 quintals of Codfish.

Pierre Duguay, 6 " 3 " 300 " "

It was there, on the 14th of September, that the schooner "Mary Jane," 50 tons burthen, and belonging to Fabien Fougères, of Maria, was lost. That vessel had just been launched, and was not insured. It had been so completely broken to pieces on the rocks by the sea, that there was not enough left of the wreck to build a boat. All hands were saved excepting a seaman who was carried away by the waves.

At 8 o'clock, P. M., I set sail for Thunder River. The boats at the station had taken only 90 to 110 quintals of Codfish each. The brigantine Aurora and the schooners Mermaid and Primrose were anchored in the harbor. At Thunder River, as at all the other posts I had just visited, and at Shelldrake, the autumn Codfishery had not been good. However, bait was not wanting, and on that account it was expected that the Codfish would approach the coast previous to its retiring to the deep waters of the Gulf and the ocean. I embarked again at 7 o'clock, P. M., and directed my course towards the south. On the 19th, a light breeze was blowing from the south-east. On the 20th, in the morning, I landed at the Magdalen River. The names of the inhabitants of that locality are as follows :

1. Jean Briard,	7. Francois Briard,
2. Jacques Laflamme,	8. Abraham Sinnet,
3. Joseph Derèche,	9. Martin Chicoine,
4. Jacques Sinnet,	10. John Sinnet,
5. Réhul Brachette,	11. Romain Dubé,
6. Alexander Mercier,	12. Benoit Talbot.

These men have each a boat, but they attend to the cultivation of their lands as well as to the fisheries. Joseph Derèche had taken 150 quintals of Codfish, the others from 40 to 60 only. The fish had been very abundant at the beginning of the season, but scarce for the last six weeks. I next visited Grand Valley. At that place, the number of inhabitants was the same as the preceding years. The Codfishing had been indifferent, being about 100 quintals for each boat. I returned on board at 1 o'clock, P. M., during a storm of north westerly wind. We found it impossible to land at the station of Grand Etang. Cape Gaspé was doubled at 6 o'clock, P. M., and notwithstanding a violent head wind, we cast anchor outside the sand bank, in Gaspé Bay, at 11 o'clock, P. M.

At 8 o'clock, A. M., on the 21st, we dropped our anchor in Gaspé Basin, where we found three Brigantines and four Schooners. I was told that the Mackerel fishery had not been attended with better results since my last visit. Tranquillity prevailed in Gaspé. I saw Mr. Thomas Boyle, who did not report any new case of infringement of the fishery law in the Gaspé rivers.

On the 22nd, we sailed out of the Basin at half-past five in the afternoon. In the morning, Mr. Connolly overseer of the River St. John, came on board, and made a report quite as favorable as that of Mr. Boyle. In the evening I stopped at Point St. Peter, and the next day I arrived at Percé. I visited the fishing establishments of that Station, and of the Island of Bonaventure. On the 23rd and 24th those of Cape Cove. I made a short stay at Grand River on the 25th, and cast anchor at Paspebiac on the 26th. There were in the harbor three brigs, two burks and several schooners.

The ships "Blanchard" and "Mackerel," belonging to the Robins, had lately arrived from Rio Janeiro, where they had discharged cargoes of dried Cod Fish that had

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been sold for more than two pounds sterling per barrel of 128 pounds. The "Blanchard" had accomplished her voyage, going and returning in 85 days; the "Mackerel" had experienced a rather longer passage. The former carried 3,000 barrels of Codfish, the latter 2,000. I may remark that these two splendid ships were built at Paspebiac, with Timber from the Bay of Chaleurs.

All along that part of the coast of Gaspé, extending from Point St. Peter to Paspebiac, the results of the Codfishing had been indifferent, since autumn had set in. There was enough Codfish on the banks in the offing, but bait had often failed, and the heavy winds that had prevailed for some weeks past, had prevented our fishermen from going out to sea.

No foreign vessels had been seen in the Bay for a long while. Moreover, very few American schooners had arrived during the season, compared to the number of arrivals of former years, and the conduct of their crews had not given rise to any complaints.

On the 27th, we took in a supply of water and wood, and on the 28th, we left for Caraqueette, to take in Oysters, for the purpose of establishing artificial Oyster beds along our coasts, at such places as seemed most favorable for ensuring the success of the experiments I was about to undertake.

We anchored next day in Caraqueette harbor, at about two miles from the head of the bay of that name, where the famous Caraqueette oyster beds are situated.

As I proposed to use St. Simon oysters also for my artificial oyster beds, I sent my boatswain to the bay of St. Simon, lying about 15 miles to the east of Caraqueette, and supplied him with the funds to buy a quantity of these shell-fish, instructing him to have them taken up in his presence, in order to make sure that he brought back fresh oysters.

On the morning of the 30th, Captain Bernier proceeded to the banks of the Caraqueette, and returned in the afternoon with sixty barrels, which had been fished under his personal superintendence.

The St. Simon oysters did not arrive until the 2nd of October, owing to calms and contrary winds. They were taken on board on the 3rd, at 4 o'clock a.m., and three hours after we prepared to set sail for New Richmond, where I had proposed to deposit my valuable cargo in the bay of that name, but we were forced by a north-westerly gale to seek refuge in Port Daniel. I availed myself of the delay to pay a visit to that place.

In company with the overseer of rivers, Mr. Phelan, and with Mr. McPherson, I visited Mr. Carter's Mill Dam, on the South-West River. The Dam is not more than four or five feet high. Salmon can ascend it, but with difficulty. The party in possession of the mill, Mr. Bréaux, to whom I gave warning, promised to build a fish-way, and to place it on the Dam which had existed for many years, and was only carried to its present height in the spring of this year. Last year it did not offer any impediment to the passage of Salmon or Trout. The Dam on the North-West River is only eighteen inches high, and can easily be cleared by the fish. About eighty barrels of Salmon have been taken in the Bay at Port Daniel.

On the evening of the 4th, the wind had subsided, and we set sail for New Richmond, where we arrived on the following day, at five o'clock p.m.

We immediately commenced a survey of the bay, and Captain Bernier took soundings until seven o'clock p.m. I received from Mr. Manderson, of Maria, the following letter:—

MARIA, 4th October, 1859.

SIR,—I beg to submit for your consideration the following case, brought before me by our active and energetic fishery overseer, R. W. H. Dimock, Esq., who, on the 28th of September last, made complaint against two Indians, of the name of Michel alias Manageset, for having killed Salmon in contravention to the 24th section of the Fishery Act. I immediately issued my summons, commanding them to appear before me on the 3rd of Oct. instant, which they accordingly did, bringing with them the summons with which they had been duly served, (the bailiff, however, not attending.) On demanding of them what they had to say to the complaint, they confessed having taken Salmon as therein set forth, or, in other words, pleaded guilty, but offered in extenuation of their fault, the one, the father, that he was ignorant of the law in that respect, and the other, the son, that he was aware at the time of doing wrong, but that he had nothing to eat for himself nor his family, and expressed, apparently, sincere regret at not having endeavoured to obtain provision by some other means.

The law on the subject appears to be imperative, leaving no discretionary power in the Magistrate, whether it be the first offence or not, or whether it may have been committed wantonly or out of dire necessity, so that my duty is quite clear in the matter. Yet, notwithstanding, I have thought proper to defer judgment, or rather not put it in execution until I should communicate with you in the matter. Now, although I have had occasion to put the law in force this season against others, this is the first complaint brought against any Indians, who, however well aware they may be that they are violating the law, cannot be easily made to understand the heinous nature of the offence.

I would therefore respectfully suggest that if the law in the present instance was put in force under your immediate instructions, it would have the effect of preventing in future, on the part of Indians, any violation of the statute, and would do more in bringing them to submit willingly, (which of course is the thing desired,) than twenty convictions from any local authority.

And should it not interfere with your arrangements otherwise, I am convinced that your presence in this quarter once more this season, would be attended by vast advantage to the interest of the inland fishery of this locality.

Should we, however, be deprived of the pleasure of again seeing you amongst us this summer, I shall be happy to receive any instructions you may honor me with, regarding these unfortunate creatures.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

H. A. MANDERSON, J. P.

P. FORTIN, Esquire, Command-
ingschooner "La Canadienne," }
Percé

As may be seen by the above, Mr. Manderson had not expected to see me so soon, and it was intended that his letter should reach me in Percé. My arrival was consequently very opportune. I assured that gentleman that he might at all times rely on my willingness to assist him in the discharge of his duties as a Magistrate, and we took the necessary steps to have the Indians brought before us.

On the morning of the 6th, the weather being calm, we continued our survey of the Bay of Cascapedia. This is the Indian name of the Bay of New Richmond.

I determined upon depositing the oysters opposite to the entrance of the Grand River Cascapedia, on a muddy bottom most favorable for the purpose, on the eastern side of the middle channel, leading into the river, and in a place well sheltered against the sea breezes, and having a depth of from four to eight feet at low tide.

In the afternoon, notwithstanding a strong north-westerly wind accompanied with rain and hail, I went out with the two boats loaded with 25 barrels, and assisted by Captain Bernier and Mr. Dimock, I caused the oysters to be deposited at the bottom of the water, and spread all over the bank selected for the purpose of forming oyster beds.

In the course of the night, the wind changed and it blew a hurricane for two days without intermission. It was not until the night of the 8th and 9th, that we could deposit the remainder of the oysters we had on board, availing ourselves of the calm and of a splendid moonlight, which enabled us to get through our work as well as in broad daylight.

The superficial extent of the shoal on which the oysters had been deposited was about four acres in length by three-fourths of an acre in width. The water there is salt, except perhaps in the spring and fall of the year, during the freshets, when it is brackish.

I had made arrangements with Mr. Manderson, on the 7th, to summon before us the next day the two Indians accused of having violated the fishery laws.

On the 8th we went to Indian Point, and there we were told that the two Indians had gone up the river, no doubt to hide themselves until after my departure from New Richmond. I decided at once upon despatching one of my men after them. He found them at a distance of about 10 miles up the river and brought them back.

They appeared before Mr. Manderson and myself and again pleaded guilty; Louis Michel, senior, of having in his possession 14 Salmon killed on the 25th of August, and Louis Michel, junior, of having speared three Salmon, also on the 25th of August. The first was fined £2 with 1 shilling and 3 pence costs, and the other £5 with 1 shilling and

3 pence costs. They both paid the fine at once, and Mr. Dimock, taking their extreme poverty into consideration, very charitably returned to them his share of the fine, as informer. The following is a letter I received from Mr. Dimock, in reference to this matter :

NEW RICHMOND,
October 8th, 1859.

SIR,

Permit me to tender you my thanks for the ready and important assistance you have given me this day in putting the Fishery Act in force, and I trust in future the appearance of the "*Canadienne*," under her noble Commander will be a terror to evildoers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Yours, &c.,

RALPH DIMOCK.

P. FORTIN, Esquire,
Com. "*La Canadienne*,"
New Richmond.

We sailed for Paspebiac on the 9th and spent the 10th there, and on the 11th we cast anchor in the evening below the Island of Caraqueette.

On the 12th, a very strong head wind blowing from the north-west prevented us from going beyond the entry of the harbour of Caraqueette. I landed and sent my boatswain to the head of the bay to make the necessary arrangements to enable us to obtain oysters the next day. On the 13th I proceeded to the oysters banks and had the oysters taken out of the water under my personal superintendence. One hundred men in fifty barges were busy at work, and at 1 o'clock P. M., the boats I had engaged to convey the oysters on board had already a full cargo, consisting of 193 barrels.

The boats arrived alongside of *La Canadienne* at half-past one, and at 7 o'clock, P.M. the whole of the oysters were in the hold. We set sail on the 14th, at 6 o'clock in the morning, for Gaspé Basin. We were becalmed in the afternoon, and did not arrive at Percé until 7 o'clock the following morning. I left for Point St. Peter, and arrived there at 11 o'clock, A. M. Mr. John Verdun, who had just returned from the north coast, reported that cod-fishing had been very abundant since the end of September, particularly at Shelldrake and in Magpie Bay. We anchored in the evening at Douglastown. The fishermen of that place had not been very fortunate. Mr. Connolly reported that the fishery laws had not been violated to his knowledge at the River St. John.

On the 16th, notwithstanding a very strong gale from the north-west, we entered Gaspé Basin. The steamer "*Lady le Marchant*," having on board Capt. Orlebar, R.N., hydrographer, charged with the hydrographic survey of the coasts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, had been lying at anchor in the harbor of Gaspé since the preceding evening. I hastened on board of that vessel to acquaint her Commander with the discovery we had made, by striking against it, of a sunken rock, covered with nine feet of water at low tide, the position of which we ascertained with the compass, as lying south-west of the west point of the entry of the River Washhecootai, a distance of about two miles. That rock was not noted on Capt. Bayfield's charts, nor was it known to the inhabitants of the coast.

On the 17th we began depositing our oysters, on bottoms selected as the best calculated for that purpose after a careful survey of the whole basin. These bottoms are formed of mud of a certain consistency, resemble very much the Caraqueette oyster beds. Being in the basin, they are well sheltered, and are covered with a body of water from 5 to 15 feet in depth. I determined upon having two oyster beds, one opposite Mr. Horatio LeBoutillier's house, about four acres from the entrance of the basin, the other a mile further up, opposite Mr. Short's house, both being on the south coast.

On the first bank were deposited 80 barrels of oysters, covering a space of four acres in length and one in breadth; and on the second bank 70 barrels were deposited.

There remained on board 40 barrels in a perfect state of preservation, which I intended for the Magdalen Islands, where there are to my knowledge, at different points, but particularly at Basques Harbor, excellent banks for the formation of Oysters beds.

During this last visit to Gaspé Basin, which was prolonged until the 22nd owing to strong and unfavorable winds from the east, accompanied by fogs and rain and

continuing from the 18th to the 22nd, I had to take cognizance of two cases of assault and battery by two sailors on the person of the master of a vessel. The evidence being heard, they were found guilty and condemned to pay a fine which they refused to pay. I therefore detained them on board to convey them to the county jail at Percé.

On the 18th, Capt. Joseph Pearse of the schooner *Atravida*, came and complained that his mate was evidently deranged in his mind, and dangerous to himself and his crew since he had jumped over board while the schooner was sailing out of Gaspé Bay, no doubt with the intention of drowning himself, for he had opposed for some time the efforts of those who had gone to his rescue. He prayed that he might be put into safe custody. I ordered the man to be brought on board and I examined him. Thinking that the fit would only be temporary, I kept him on board of *La Canadienne*, after his master had given him his discharge, and before sending him to jail. As I had suspected, after a few days, he was quite well and I discharged him.

On the night of the 19th to the 20th, the schooner performing the postal service between the Magdalen Islands, Pietou and Percé had been cast ashore by the storm, at the entrance of the basin, but had suffered no damage. I sent my men several times with anchors and stream cables to float her off, but as she had been cast ashore during a very high tide, and as the tides had decreased since that day, their efforts were unavailing. It was obvious, however that she could be set afloat at the next spring tides. In order that no delay should result from that accident in the delivery of the mails, I took on board those intended for the Magdalen Islands, where I was going in a few days.

There were in Gaspé Basin six Brigantines and eight Schooners. All these vessels were engaged in the Codfish trade; some had brought back from different fishing stations, situated both on the north and south shores, fish dried and prepared for exportation, others were receiving that fish to convey it to the markets of Cadiz, Naples, and Civita Vecchia, and to divers other ports in the Mediterranean.

Messrs. Conolly and Boyle brought me satisfactory reports of their last visits to the rivers under their charge. They were not aware of any infringement of the Fishery laws.

We weighed our anchor in the afternoon of the 22nd. I remained for some time at Grande Grève, where I was told that tranquillity prevailed and that fish were becoming more plentiful. At midnight we anchored at Percé.

I landed my prisoners on the 23rd, and they were delivered over to the Jailor by my Constable. Having visited the fishing establishments at that place, I proceeded to Malbaie where I met Mr. Collas, of Point St. Peter, and went with him to Barachois to inspect the river of that name. A considerable number of fishermen have settled on its banks.

Next day Mr. John Verdun, of Malbaie, brought a complaint against two fishermen of the same place for having deserted his service without fulfilling their engagements. The parties were heard before Mr. Elias Collas and myself, and the two fishermen were found guilty and fined \$10 each and costs, amounting to \$1 15, or to 8 day's imprisonment in case the fine and costs should not be paid. In the afternoon the defendants paid the fine and costs. Codfishing had been improving for a few days past at Malbaie. When the weather was favorable, the fishermen would take from two to three drafts of Codfish in the course of the day.

A considerable number of fishermen of that locality had gone north and had returned quite satisfied with the result of their labors. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon the wind changed to the west and we started for the Magdalen Islands. On the following day, at 8 o'clock, A.M., it veered to the S. S. E. and kept blowing from that quarter until 7 P. M., when it suddenly shifted to the west and became tempestuous, being accompanied during the night by fog and snow, which forced us to lay to.

The weather cleared on the 26th in the morning, and we hoisted our sails; at 7 o'clock, A. M., we came in sight of L'Etang du Nord, and at 5 P. M. we cast anchor at the head of Pleasant Bay, opposite to the entrance of Basques Harbor. The wind, which had been very strong during the day, became more violent during the night, and it was only in the afternoon of the following day that I could effect a landing.

At Amherst Harbor where I met Mr. Fox, Mr. Painchaud and the principal inhabitants of the island, the following particulars were furnished to me:

The Mackerel fishery had failed in Pleasant Bay on the side of Amherst Island, but near Albright Island it had been very satisfactory during the months of

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September and October. At L'Etang du Nord, where Mackerel is seldom seen in such abundance, 250 barrels of that excellent fish had been taken during the same period.

Since the month of September Codfish had been very plentiful along the coast, but unfortunately the frequency of westerly and north westerly gales since the beginning of autumn had prevented our fishermen from obtaining favorable returns. Vessels that had gone to the north had returned with large cargoes of Herring. Several of the Schooners from the United States which had remained near the Magdalen Islands during the month of September, for the Mackerel fishery, had suffered considerable damage during the storm of the 14th and 15th of that month. Ten had been obliged to take refuge in Amherst harbor for the purpose of undergoing repairs. It was reported that a fishing schooner from the same country had run foul of another vessel during the night, off Amherst Island and had foundered immediately with all on board. The vessels from the Magdalen Islands had not suffered any damage. On the 28th I ordered the Oysters we had on board to be deposited in Basques harbour, on the south side of the central channel, in a place where the water was from 4 to 8 feet high, and on an excellent bed of mud; the Oysters covering a space of two acres and a half in length by three-quarters of an acre in breadth.

To find out that bed, the north-east point of the entrance to Basques harbor must be brought into a line with the north cape of Entry Island, and Cape Albright in a line with a large mound of sand situated at about 6 acres off the said North East Point of the entry of Basques harbor.

In the afternoon we landed at House Harbor which I visited. Almost all the vessels at that Port had returned from Halifax and other ports, where their cargoes of fish had been sold at remunerative prices, especially Herrings. There were two large schooners building. I remarked with satisfaction that the fishermen of House Harbor, like those of the other Islands, had continued to advance steadily in the path of progress and improvement, which they had been pursuing for the last 5 or 6 years. The number of their vessels had been increased, and those of 30 or 40 tons burthen replaced by others measuring from 60 to 80 tons. Their equipments and fishing implements for the Seal, Cod and Herring fisheries on the north coast, are better and more complete than heretofore. Their fishing instruments are manufactured on more recent and approved patterns. Some have already acquired large Mackerel and Herring seines. They all have the advantage of being able to go themselves to the best markets to sell the produce of their labor, and buy, at moderate prices, the salt and all other supplies required for the fisheries.

Education, which has been so long neglected, is also attracting general attention. The inhabitants spare no exertions nor expense for maintaining the old schools and establishing new ones; unfortunately a large proportion of the inhabitants are so poor that they cannot afford to subscribe a sufficient sum to pay suitable salaries to their school masters; and consequently it is with the greatest difficulty that they can procure any. It would be most desirable for them to obtain the services of masters who could instruct their children both in the English and French languages; for of late years, the commercial intercourse of the Magdalen Islands, has been carried on more with Nova Scotia, and especially the port of Halifax, than with Quebec and Montreal. If it were possible for one of the Teachers at Amherst Harbor or at House Harbor to instruct in the elementary branches of the art of navigation, his pupils and the fishermen desirous of acquiring during the winter when they remain unoccupied, the knowledge of a science so useful to them, there is no doubt that after a few years, being thus instructed, Captains commanding fishing vessels in the Gulf, during the summer season, would be competent to cross the seas with their vessels, laden with the proceeds of the fisheries, and sell their cargoes in foreign countries, where most remunerative prices could be obtained.

One can easily imagine how beneficial it would be to the inhabitants settled on our coasts in the Gulf to add to the advantage derived from the fisheries, the profits resulting from the transportation of that produce across the Atlantic ocean. Consequently I take the liberty of calling the attention of the Government to that most important subject, and of suggesting the propriety of allowing a special grant of money for the Magdalen Islands, so as to enable the School Commissioners of those islands to engage the services of a master capable of teaching the science of navigation.

I proceeded to Amherst Harbor on the 29th and visited the Basin and the Moulin on the 30th.

On the 31st, at 3 o'clock, P. M., the wind having sprung up from the South, we set sail and arrived at Percé, on the 2nd of November, in the morning. I received from Mr. Béchar, the Inspector of Schools for the County, the following letter :

To PIERRE FORTIN, ESQUIRE,
Commander of the vessel "LaCanadienne,"

At Percé, Nov., 2nd 1859.

SIR,—The School Commissioners of the United Municipalities of Pabos and Newport sued, in the course of last August, two of the rate payers who had refused to pay their taxes. Their names are Germain Dupuis and Abraham Duguay. Judgment has been rendered against them, and the only thing remaining to be done is to seize their goods and chattels ; but owing to the repeated threats of these two individuals, no bailiff or constable can be found to take charge of the writs of execution. I therefore request that you will be good enough to give your assistance to the above named Commissioners, who suffer great embarrassment in consequence of that delay.

On the execution of the above judgment will depend the collection of monies due by other parties indebted to the Municipality, who are awaiting the result of the proceedings to satisfy or not the demands against them.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Ob't. Servant,

A. BECHARD,

Inspector of Schools, & J. P.

I at once informed Mr. Béchar that I would lend him, as well as to the School Commissioners of Pabos and Newport, all the assistance they might require for carrying out the School Laws, and I took on board my vessel the Bailiff from Percé, charged with the Writ of Execution for the seizure of Dupuis and Duguay's goods and chattels.

We set sail at 6 o'clock P. M., and at half-past two o'clock P. M. of the following day "La Canadienne" anchored opposite Pabos. Capt. Bernier, to whom I had communicated the necessary instructions, went on shore with six men and the Bailiff, who effected the seizure this time without meeting with any resistance. From Pabos the schooner proceeded to Paspebiac and arrived there at six o'clock in the morning.

I had previously, on the 3rd, taken passage on board the "Lady Head" and visited Dalhousie, but I had returned to Paspebiac, on the evening of the 4th.

I shou'd have gone again, for the third time, to Caraquette to take in a cargo of Oysters, intended this time for the Bay of Seven Islands, which is only three hundred miles distant from Quebec ; but the season was so far advanced and the weather so cold, (there being hard frosts every night) that we had the greatest difficulty in preventing the Oysters from being frozen ; it was therefore with great reluctance that I abandoned my project.

Navigation was on the point of closing. All the fishing was over and it was high time to think of going into winter quarters.

Four vessels still remained in the Harbor of Paspebiac, which were preparing to sail for Naples, besides several schooners which were to be run ashore on the beach for the winter. All the vessels bound for Quebec had left several weeks before.

On the 5th the wind was blowing from the S.S.E., and it rained and snowed all the day ; but on the following day the wind veered to the South-west. We set sail at noon, and at 6 o'clock, P. M., we anchored at Percé.

I was told by Mr. Guillemette, the curate, and by Mr. Béchar, that a meeting was to be held on the next day, of persons supposed to be opposed to the imposition of a school rate, and that riot and disorder were feared. I was informed that several individuals had threatened to assault the Inspector of Schools, and that fears were entertained for the safety of the School House. Mr. Béchar and several of the leading men of the place desired that I should attend the meeting, and therefore I deemed it my duty to remain in Percé for that purpose, especially when the wind from the land, that was blowing at the time, allowed our vessel to ride at anchor in the South-west Bay, without being exposed to any danger.

The meeting accordingly took place on the following day, for the avowed purpose of opposing the imposition of School Rates. Hitherto the voluntary system of taxation for the support of Schools had prevailed at Percé, as well as every where else along the coast; but in consequence of the default of many persons to pay their share of the taxes, the School Commissioners found it impossible to pay their School Masters, and to keep the School Houses in repair. In order to remedy that unfortunate state of things, the Inspector of Schools had received instructions from the Honorable Mr. Chauveau, to introduce the system of taxation.

At 1 o'clock, P. M., I repaired to the Court House, where the meeting was held, and which consisted of about two hundred persons, who seemed all very well disposed to listen to me. I addressed them for nearly two hours, and explained several times the most important clauses of the School Laws, that they might be well understood. At three o'clock, I had the satisfaction of seeing the crowd disperse in the most orderly manner, and having apparently given up all idea of offering any violent opposition to the imposition and collection of the School Rates, and rather disposed not to throw any obstacles in the way. I allude of course merely to the majority of those that were present at the meeting.

The next day, as the wind was blowing from the west, we set sail for Quebec.

On the 10th, at noon, we were off the Seven Islands, having encountered, during the night, a north westerly storm.

We were assailed on the 11th by a most violent storm of north easterly wind, accompanied by a heavy fall of snow, which obliged us to lay to during a portion of the day, and on the evening of the 12th we anchored in the harbor of Quebec.

On the 14th, "La Canadienne" was placed on Mr. George Davis's patent slip, at Point Levi, and on the 15th the crew were paid off and discharged.

P. FORTIN,
Magistrate, Commanding
"La Canadienne."

EXTRACT from the Journal kept on board of "*La Canadienne*," during the season 1859.

May 10.—Set out from Quebec.

" 14.—Anchored at Percé.

" 14.—Left Percé.

" 16.—Anchored at Amherst Harbor (Magdalen Islands.)

" 19.—Left Amherst Harbor.

" 20.—Anchored at Paspebiac.

" " Left Paspebiac.

" " Anchored at New Richmond.

" 23.—Left New Richmond.

" " Anchored at Bonaventure.

" " Left Bonaventure.

" " Anchored at Paspebiac.

" 27.—Left Paspebiac.

" 28.—Anchored at Percé.

" " Left Percé.

" " Anchored at Gaspé Basin.

" 30.—Left Gaspé.

" 31.—Anchored at Amherst Harbor.

June 9.—Left Amherst Harbor.

" 10.—Arrived at Percé.

" 10.—Left Percé.

" " Anchored at Gaspé Basin.

" 19.—Left Gaspé Basin.

" 21.—Anchored at Mingan Harbor

" 23.—Left Mingan.

" " Landed at Thunder River.

" 25.—Anchored at the River Moisie.

" 28.—Left River Moisie.

- " 29.—Landed at Fall River.
 " 30.—Anchored at Shelldrake River.
 July 1.—Left Shelldrake River.
 " " Landed at Ridge Point.
 " " Landed at Magpie Bay.
 " 2.—Anchored at Long Point (Mingan.)
 " " Left Long Point.
 " " Anchored in Mingan Harbor.
 " 4.—Left Mingan.
 " " Anchored at River St. John.
 " 5.—Left River St. John.
 " 6.—Anchored in Natashquan Harbor.
 " 9.—Left Natashquan.
 " " Anchored at Rekasca.
 " 10.—Anchored in Washeccootai Bay.
 " 12.—Left Washeccootai.
 " 13.—Anchored in Coacocho Bay.
 " 14.—Left Coacocho.
 " " Anchored in Wapitigun Harbour.
 " 15.—Left Wapitigun.
 " " Anchored in Mutton Bay.
 " 19.—Left Mutton Bay.
 " " Landed at Little Mécatinna.
 " " Left Little Mécatinna.
 " 21.—Anchored at Bonne Espérance.
 " 22.—Left Bonne Espérance.
 " " Anchored at Anse aux Blancs Sablons.
 " 23.—Left Anse aux Blancs Sablons.
 " 27.—Anchored in Amherst Harbour.
 " " Left Amherst Harbour.
 " 28.—Anchored at Percé.
 " 29.—Left Percé.
 " " Landed at Point St. Peter.
 " " Anchored at Douglas Town.
 " 30.—Left Douglas Town.
 " " Anchored in Gaspé Basin.
 August 2.—Left Gaspé Basin.
 " 4.—Landed at Long Point (Mingan.)
 " " Anchored at River St. John
 " 6.—Left River St. John.
 " " Laid to opposite Thunder River.
 " 6.—Impossible to land on account of the sea.
 " " Left Thunder River.
 " 7.—Anchored at Fox River.
 " " Left Fox River.
 " " Landed at Anse aux Griffons.
 " " Left Anse aux Griffons.
 " 8 Landed at Cape Desrosiers.
 " " Landed at Grande Grève.
 " " Anchored in Gaspé Basin.
 " 9 Left Gaspé Basin.
 " " Anchored at Percé.
 " " Left Percé.
 " 10.—Anchored at Grand Pabos.
 " " Anchored at Paspebiac.
 " 14.—Left Paspebiac.
 " 15.—Landed at Carleton.

- August 15.—Anchored at Dalhousie.
 “ 17.—Left Dalhousie.
 “ “ Anchored at The Mission.
 “ 19.—Left The Mission.
 “ “ Anchored at Carleton.
 “ “ Left Carleton.
 “ “ Anchored at New Richmond.
 “ 20.—Left New Richmond.
 “ “ Anchored at Paspébiac.
 “ 22.—Left Paspébiac.
 “ “ Anchored at Bonaventure.
 “ 24.—Left Bonaventure.
 “ 25.—Anchored at Percé.
 “ “ Anchored at Point St. Peter.
 “ “ Anchored at Sandy Beach.
 “ 26.—Anchored at Gaspé Basin.
 “ 28.—Left Gaspé Basin.
 “ “ Anchored at Point St. Peter.
 “ “ Left Point St. Peter.
 “ 29.—Anchored at Fox River.
 “ “ Left Fox River.
 “ 31.—Landed at La Tabatière.
 “ “ Anchored at Mutton Bay.
 September 2.—Left Mutton Bay.
 “ “ Laid to opposite St. Augustine, the heavy sea preventing our landing.
 “ 3.—Anchored in Mutton Bay.
 “ 5.—Left Mutton Bay.
 “ “ Anchored in Bradore Bay.
 “ 7.—Left Bradore Bay.
 “ “ Anchored in Bonne-Espérance Bay.
 “ 8.—Left Bonne-Espérance.
 “ 10.—Anchored in Natashquan Harbor
 “ “ Left Natashquan.
 “ 11.—Anchored at Mingan.
 “ 13.—Left Mingan Harbor.
 “ “ Landed at river St. John:
 “ “ Left river St. John.
 “ 14.—Anchored at Mingan.
 “ 17.—Left Mingan.
 “ “ Anchored at Long Point.
 “ “ Left Long Point.
 “ 18.—Landed at Bridge Point.
 “ “ Landed at Thunder River.
 “ “ Left Thunder River.
 “ 19.—Anchored at Magdalen River.
 “ 20.—Landed at Grand Valley.
 “ “ Anchored at Douglas Town.
 “ 21.—Anchored in Gaspé Basin.
 “ 22.—Left Gaspé Basin.
 “ “ Anchored at Point St. Peter.
 “ 23.—Left Point St. Peter.
 “ “ Landed at Percé.
 September, 24.—Landed at L'Anse du Cap.
 “ “ Left L'Anse du Cap.
 “ 25.—Landed at Grande Rivière
 “ “ Left Grande Rivière.
 “ 26.—Anchored at Paspébiac.

- September, 28.—Left Paspebiac.
 " 29.—Anchored in Caraqueette Harbour.
 October, 3.—Left Caraqueette Harbor.
 " " Anchored at Port Daniel.
 " 4.—Left Port Daniel.
 " 5.—Landed at Pasprbiac.
 " " Anchored at New Richmond.
 " 9.—Left New Richmond.
 " " Anchored at Paspebiac.
 " 11.—Left Paspebiac.
 " 12.—Anchored at Caraqueette.
 " 14.—Left Caraqueette.
 " 15.—Anchored at Percé.
 " " Landed at Point St. Peter.
 " " Anchored at Douglas town.
 " 16.—Anchored in Gaspé Basin.
 " 22.—Left Gaspé Basin, landed at Grande Grève, and anchored at Percé.
 " 23.—Left Percé, anchored at Malbaie.
 " 24.—Left Malbaie.
 " 26.—Anchored at Havre aux Basques.
 " 28.—Left Havre aux Basques.
 " " Anchored at Havre aux Maisons.
 " 29.—Left Havre aux Maisons.
 " " Anchored at Amherst Harbour.
 " 31.—Left Magdalen Islands.
 November, 2.—Anchored at Percé; left Percé.
 " 3.—Anchored at Pabos; left Pabos.
 " 4.—Anchored at Paspebiac.
 " 6.—Left Paspebiac.
 " " " Anchored at Percé.
 " 8.—Left Percé.
 " 10.—Passed off Pointe-des-Monta.
 " 11.—Snow storm.
 " 12.—Anchored in Quebec Harbour.

REMARKS ON THE CANADIAN FISHERIES IN THE GULF OF SAINT LAWRENCE.

Canada possesses, in the River and Gulf of Saint Lawrence, more than nine hundred miles of coast, along which are to be found, at different seasons of the year, a greater abundance and variety of fish and marine animals than in any other part of America.

The shoals of herring, cod and mackerel, which approach our shores for purposes connected with the reproduction of their species, are immense and inexhaustible. Then, towards the end of November, and at the beginning of December there are seen to enter, by the Straits of Belle Isle, innumerable herds of Seals which, after having followed the Coast of Labrador as far as Cape Whittle, keeping very close in (and it is this circumstance which admits of their being taken in standing nets) proceed to seek in the middle of the Gulf those floating fields of ice on which the females desposit their young ones in the month of March.

Certain shoals, such as those of Mingan and St. John are frequented every year by a considerable number of Whales of different kinds, for the purpose of taking which many vessels are fitted out from the Port of Gaspé.

One must not either forget the Salmon, justly called the king of fresh water fish, which is furnished in great quantities by the Rivers of Labrador and the Coast of Gaspé.

I must also mention several excellent kinds of Trout, the Haddock, the Halibut, the Eel, the Caplin, the Lobster, which, without being great objects of trade, furnish the settlers along the shore with nourishment as healthy as it is abundant.

Of all the fish and other creatures named above, the Cod, the Herring, the Salmon, the Seal and the Whale, alone have attracted more or less the attention of the fishermen of Ca-

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nada. As to the Mackerel fishery, it may be said to have been hitherto almost entirely neglected.

The advantage of prosecuting this branch of industry on a large scale is left to United States fishermen, to whom it is a source of considerable gain. In Canada, at present, the Mackerel fishery is practised only in boats along the shore, when the Cod fishery is not productive. It has never been made a special object of pursuit.

The fisheries are divided into two great classes;—The Sea fisheries and the River fisheries.

The former are subdivided into the Cod fishery, the Herring fishery, the Mackerel fishery, the Seal fishery, the Whale fishery. The latter comprise the Salmon fishery, the Trout fishery, &c. &c. &c..

Although the Cod fishery is not the first that is followed in the spring, I have placed it before the others on account of its importance; it is the one that gives occupation to the greatest number of fishermen, employs the greatest number of vessels, and produces the most advantageous results.

And in mentioning the different fisheries, for the purpose of proving their value and importance in an economic and commercial point of view, and at the same time shewing the necessity for encouraging them by all possible means, I shall begin with the cod fishery.

THE COD FISHERY.

The Cod (*Morrhua*), of the family of the Gadidae, is so well known everywhere that I may dispense with giving a description of it. Let it suffice to say that there are several kinds, of which the only one of any consequence to us is the common cod (*Morrhua vulgaris*) which is found along all the shores of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

The Haddock (*Morrhua Eglefinus*) and the Hake (*Phycis Americanus*), are frequently taken in autumn off the coast of Gaspé; but these fish are not salted for exportation.

The Cod inhabits cold and temperate climates. It is found along the coasts of Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and the United States. All the world has heard of the Great Banks of Newfoundland, and of the immense quantity of Cod to be found there.

It abounds on the coast of Iceland, and on the coast of Norway, where it forms the principal food of the inhabitants. It visits the coasts of Scotland, England and Ireland. It is sometimes taken on the coast of France. But it does not appear that it goes beyond the latitude of Gibraltar; and it has never been seen in the Mediterranean.

The Cod generally stays in the Sea, at a depth of from twenty five to sixty fathoms. It is seldom taken in more than seventy five fathoms. But when the instinct of reproduction is felt, it approaches the shore in pursuit of the Caplin, of which it then makes its chief food, and remains six or eight weeks in twelve, eight, and even five fathoms. It is then that the taking of this fish can be most successfully carried on.

The Cod appears on the Canadian coasts at uncertain dates, generally between the 10th of May and the 1st of June, but sometimes later. It has some favorite spots, where it is found in greater quantities than elsewhere. These are the places which present the greatest advantages for the preservation and hatching of the spawn. Having deposited its spawn, the Cod withdraws to the shallow places called banks, where it always finds food in sufficient quantities to satisfy the well-known voracity of its appetite.

Cod are found in great quantities along the coast of Gaspé, from Cape Chat, in the River St. Lawrence, to Paspébiac, and even as far as New Richmond, in the Bay of Chaleurs. Formerly they were taken in abundance even at Rimouski, at Escoumins, and in Carleton Bay; but for the last thirty or forty years they have appeared in such small quantities in these places, that fishing for them has been given up.

At the Magdalen Islands the Cod, following the Herring, makes its first appearance in the beginning of May, in Pleasant Bay, and then it is found to the south of Entry Island and at North Pond. Later in the season it is found on banks situate some ten miles from Entry Island and Amherst Island, and near Deadman's Island and the Bird Islands.

On the North shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, and on the Coast of Labrador, it abounds almost all along the coast from Pointe des Monts to the boundary of Canada, in Blancs Sablons Bay. But it is chiefly in the last-mentioned Bay, in Bradore Bay, in Salmon Bay, at Dog Island, in Mutton Bay, at Natashquan, at the River St. John, in Magpie Bay, and at Shelldrake River, that it is most abundant.

In many of these places the Cod approaches so near the coast that at times from four to five thousand may be taken at a single haul of the Seine; but they are generally fished for with hemp lines and hooks baited with pieces of fresh fish, or even with small fishes whole, such as Caplin and Launce.

The Cod fishery is carried on in vessels or in boats. The former method is the most expensive, but at the same time it is that by which the finest fish are obtained.

Vessels employed in the Cod fishery, manned by from ten to thirty fishermen, according to their tonnage, are anchored by hemp or manilla cables, in from fifteen to fifty fathoms. Bait is obtained by spreading nets in the sea at a distance from the vessel, and the fishing is then begun with hook and line, and carried on, often by night as well as by day, in spite of wind and storm, until the hold of the vessel is filled with fish, all split and salted. On the return of the vessel to port the Cod is landed, washed and dried, and piled up in stores. It is then ready for exportation.

It is chiefly the fishermen from Nova Scotia and the United States, who carry on the Cod fishery in vessels along our coasts. The Canadian fishermen, on the contrary, carry on the fishery in boats, most of them near the coasts and on the banks in the neighborhood of the coves and bays where they reside. Others, as, for instance, a great number of the fishermen of the Magdalen Islands, Bonaventure, Paspebiac, Malbaie, and Douglastown, go and follow their calling on the coast of Labrador, at the fishing stations I have named. They find good harbours there in which their vessels are safe, and sometimes also, such an abundance of fish that it is often in their power to make the voyage in four or five weeks, returning with a full cargo.

The boats used by our fishermen are built like Whale boats, that is to say, they are pointed at the stem as well as at the stern. Along the coast of Gaspé, their length of keel is from eighteen to twenty-two feet, and their breadth of beam from five to seven feet. They are very sheer built; the keel is usually of birch, and the clinker work of pine or cedar. The rigging consists of two sprit sails or gaff sails. The fishermen of the Grand River and the neighboring coast, who are in the habit of going very often to the bank at Miscou, use boats of from twenty to twenty-five feet keel, and decked at the bows. At the Magdalen Islands, the boats are smaller and lighter, especially in the Coves, where they have to be hauled ashore when the wind blows hard from sea. The settlers on the coast of Labrador all have boats (which they buy from the American fishermen) of about sixteen feet keel, with cotton sails which are very high, but narrow aloft.

All these boats are good sailers, and behave well at sea, especially those from Gaspé. They will last six or eight years if no accident happen to them.

The fishermen always set out for the fishing grounds about two or three o'clock in the morning. Sometimes they are so fortunate as to have the wind in their favor, but often times it is otherwise, and then they are obliged to row for several hours. On arriving at the place where they expect to find fish, they cast anchor, take down the masts and sails and place them, with the oars, across the boat; then they bait their hooks with fresh fish and drop their lines into the water, each with a leaden sinker attached to it weighing from one pound to four pounds, according to the supposed depth of the water and the force of the current. As soon as the exact depth of water is thus ascertained, by one end of the line being carried to the bottom, while the other is attached to a cleat on board the boat, the line is hauled in until the hooks are about a fathom from the bottom.

Off the coast of Gaspé, each of the two fishermen who man each boat has two lines, and they are quite enough, for the fishing is carried on in twenty, thirty, or even forty fathoms. In many places on the coast of Labrador where the fishing is in ten fathoms or less, they use four lines each; and sometimes the master of the boat, who is always in the stern, has six to manage; but the sinkers to these lines must be very light, and the depth of water not more than five fathoms. If there are plenty of fish the fisherman has not a moment's rest when once he has begun, for while he is hauling up one line the other is going down, and before he has unhooked the fish from the former another fish is fast to the latter. The lines are always furnished with two hooks, and oftentimes they come up with a fish on each hook. The fishermen call this taking a pair.

Very often there is no good fishing at the first anchorage; in that case the anchor is weighed and the boat is sailed or rowed away in search of a better place. A good deal is frequently gained by changing places in this way, but it often happens also that a fisher-

man, after having sailed or rowed from fifteen to twenty miles in this way, in the course of a day, returns to land in the evening with no more than from fifty to sixty fish. When fish are plentiful the boats take from three to five drafts of Cod each, (a draft being 252 lbs weight.) On the North Shore, boats manned by two men only have been known to take from 1500 to 2000 Codfish in a single day, during the time they most abound near the beach.

The fishermen generally remain on the fishing grounds until four or five o'clock in the afternoon, after which they hasten ashore, in order that the Cod they bring may be split and salted immediately, before it has time to heat or soften.

But the weather is not always favorable for fishing operations. Our fishermen cannot put out when there is a strong sea breeze. They are often kept on shore by storms which last for whole weeks. Sometimes they set out in calm weather, and no sooner have they reached their fishing grounds than the wind rises or a fog comes on, and they are forced to return to land as quickly as possible—often without having taken a single fish;—and a season seldom passes without our coasts being visited by squalls and hurricanes so violent and so sudden that the poor fishermen who are in the offing are obliged to scud home under bare poles, and then to remain in doors for whole days at a time. And every year a score of fishermen are lost in boats which founder at sea or capsize among the breakers in attempting to gain the shore.

The months of June, July and August are the most favorable for the Cod fishery; not only because during the period of twelve weeks, which they cover, the air is frequently calm, there are long spells of fine weather, and storms are more rare than at any other time during the season, but also because it is then that the Cod resorts most to the coasts, either to spawn, or in pursuit of the Caplin and the Launce, on which it feeds, and because these fish, which serve as bait for it, are abundant and easy to take; for it must be borne in mind that there is no fishing without fresh bait—the Cod not being at all partial to salt fish. It is only on the great banks, where the Cod feeds chiefly on crustacea and mollusca that it bites at all freely at a line baited with salt Herring or salt Caplin.

It is, therefore, most essential for the fishermen to be always well provided with fresh fish for bait; and they accordingly have Herring, Caplin and Launce seines, which they make use of every evening and every morning to provide themselves with a sufficient quantity of little fish for the day.

It frequently happens that these fish do not come near enough to the beach to be taken by the seine, and in that case the fishermen go out and take Herring in nets, and other fish with hooks and lines.

The fishing from the beginning of the season to the fifteenth of August is called the summer fishing; what is carried on after that date is called the autumn fishing. All the Cod taken until September is salted and dried for the purpose of being exported to foreign countries; what is taken from September to the close of the fishing season is merely salted and packed in barrels, and in that state it comes to the Quebec and Montreal markets.

Great care and attention, as well as labor, are required in the preparation of Codfish for foreign countries. And besides these, stores and other buildings for salting them down in, and proper grounds for drying them on, are required. But before explaining the mode in which Codfish are prepared, either for foreign or home consumption, it will be of use, I think, to give a short description of what constitutes a fishing establishment.

A fishing establishment on the coast of Gaspé, or the coast of Labrador, consists of a collection of large and small wooden buildings, looking from a distance like a village, some of which serve to lodge the fishermen and other employees of the establishment, and others to receive the fish, either in its fresh or salted state, and to contain goods, the rigging of fishing vessels and boats, provisions, salt, &c., &c.

There is first the house of the chief of the establishment, or of the agent in charge, generally placed in the centre of the group of buildings, and in an elevated position from which he can see all that goes on in the establishment, and at the same time overlook the boats that are out fishing; then around the stores for goods and for provisions are the sheds in which the fishing tackle is kept, the workshops of the carpenter and sailmaker, the blacksmith's forge, and lastly, the stage, placed as near as possible to the beach, on which are performed the first operations in the process curing the fish.

The house of the chief, and those of the employees, as well as the stores and sheds,

are very much like buildings of the same kind in our country places. It is not so, however, with the stage, which deserves to be specially described.

The stage is the most important building in a Codfishing establishment. It is a large wooden building—covered with bark or turf, on the coast of Labrador, and with boards and shingles on the coast of Gaspé—at one end of which is a wharf, called the stage-head, extending far enough into the sea for boats loaded with fish to come alongside of it at low water. The flooring of the wharf, formed of poles of fir, or more frequently still of spruce, is divided into compartments, into which the fishermen, on their arrival with boat loads of fish, toss them one by one with an implement called a pew.

At the end of the stage nearest to the wharf are the tables on which the Cod is dressed. In the middle is a passage, with a level floor of strong planks, on which the shore hands can wheel with ease their barrow loads of salt or fish; and on each side are places for piles of fish, for salt, for troughs to wash the fish in, &c.

The first operations in the process of curing Cod, are performed on the splitting table. In the Canadian establishments three men are generally employed in the operation of dressing Cod, called respectively, the cut-throat, the header and the splitter. The French employ only headers and splitters, the duties of the cut-throat being performed by cabin boys.

As soon as the Cod has been landed on the stage and counted, the men go to work.—

The cut-throat, armed with a two-edged knife, seizes the fish by the eyes, cuts its throat, and having opened it down to the navel with a single stroke of his knife, passes it to the header. The header detaches the liver, which he throws into a barrel placed near him, and with the same hand tears out the entrails; after which, with his left hand, he cuts off the fish's head. The splitter now seizes the fish by the left side of the neck, and opens it from the neck to the tail, cutting from left to right; after which, he places it against a batten nailed on the table, and with a single stroke of his knife, if he can, he removes the back bone, from the navel upwards.

The head, entrails and other offal of the fish are thrown into the sea, through a hole under the table, and are carried away by the ebb tide, if not sooner devoured by the Anglers and Plaice, which are always in great numbers near the stages.

From the hands of the splitter the Cod passes into those of the salter, who places it on a pile, spreading it carefully, with the flesh up and the napes out, and with a wooden shovel scatters a layer of salt over each row. The salters's art lies in sprinkling on each fish just salt enough to make it keep well, but not enough to burn it.

The Cod is left piled in this way for three days, or sometimes four, according to the quality of the salt, after which the operation of washing commences. On the coast of Labrador it often happens that Cod is left in piles for several weeks, or even for whole months; but it is never so white as when it has been subjected to the action of salt only as long as is necessary.

When Cod is to be washed it is conveyed in wheel-barrows or hand-barrows to a large trough made of deals, ten or twelve feet long by four feet wide and three feet deep, filled with water which is continually being changed; in this trough it is turned over and over by men armed with poles, and rubbed on both sides with the swabs on the ends of the poles, until all the salt is washed off, when it is put in piles again in order that the moisture may drain off from it. After some days the piles are taken down and the fish are spread, one by one on hurdles, three feet wide, covered with fir or spruce boughs and supported upon posts about three feet from the ground, in order that by exposure to the action of the sun and air they may be deprived of all the water they contain, and be reduced to that dry state in which they may be preserved for several years even in hot countries.

If the process of dressing Cod has to be performed with care, so much that of drying it not be neglected for a single moment; for Cod is merchantable, or of inferior quality, or even sometimes entirely spoiled, according as the process is well or ill managed.

The hurdles on which Cod are stretched to dry are called flakes. They are placed parallel to each other, with spaces of four feet between to enable the men in charge of the fish to move round them.

At night the fish are gathered into piles of fifteen or twenty each, with the flesh side down, the largest on top by way of cover to the rest. In the morning they are spread out, with the flesh up. If the sun gets too hot about the middle of the day, they are turned with

the flesh down to prevent their being burned, but as soon as the great heat is over the flesh is again exposed to the drying influence of the sun. For the faster Cod is dried the whiter and more transparent it is, and the dearer it sells in foreign markets.

The master-voyager, or whoever in the establishment is specially charged with the superintendence of the final operations of curing the fish, is incessantly on the look out when he has a large quantity of fish on the flakes. He is always watching the sky and looking to every part of the horizon to see if clouds that threaten rain are gathering. But above all he consults his barometer, and if he finds it indicates rainy or moist weather, he gives orders immediately to gather up the fish as quickly as possible. Then, if the rain seems very near and there is much fish out, all go to work, from the chief to the smallest cabin boy. When they have done, each goes back to his own business, satisfied and free from anxiety, for the Cod, once placed with its skin up, cannot suffer from rain, unless the wet weather lasts very long and there are no intervals of a few hours of sunshine to admit of its being spread out again.

When the Cod is sufficiently dry, large round piles of it are made, containing as much as a ton and a half of fish each, and covered with birch bark and heavy stones; by the pressure of these it is deprived of the little moisture that remained in it, and after remaining in this state for some weeks it is put into dry stores, where it is left until the time comes for sending it to the best markets. But before it is shipped, it is spread out on ground covered with fine gravel during the warm hours of one day, to give it its "last sunning," or "parting sun," and extract from it any damp it may have contracted in the store.

In fine weather and during the dry season, when westerly winds predominate, cod is easily cured and made of the first quality. It is not so when the easterly and south easterly winds prevail and bring upon our coasts mists and rain that last for whole weeks; our fishermen are then in the greatest state of anxiety, and in spite of every possible care and precaution, they frequently see the fish spoiled before their eyes which it has cost them so much of the toil and exposure to danger inseparable from their calling, to snatch from the sea, without its being in their power, by any means whatever, to obviate the destructive effects of the dampness; for, once the fish has been washed and is exposed upon the flakes, it cannot be taken into the stores until it is perfectly dry.

In ordinary seasons from five to six per cent. of the dried Codfish is of second quality; in rainy seasons from fifteen to twenty per cent. is thus deteriorated.

It is on the coast of Gaspé, where the effects of the mists generated by the Gulf Stream are least felt, that the finest Cod in all America is cured. It is well known on the markets of Spain and Italy, where it is preferred to all other fish.

At Labrador, on the coasts of the Straits of Belle Isle, and at Newfoundland, where, for whole weeks, the fogs brought on by the easterly and north-easterly winds do not allow a single ray of the sun to be seen, Cod is cured with great difficulty, especially in the months of June and July; and the fish from those countries is always inferior to that which is despatched from the ports of Gaspé and New Carlisle.

In order to guard against all risks from the weather, attempts have been made to dry Cod artificially by means of large ovens, in which it is exposed to moderate and regular heat;—but I am told that these attempts, which have been made at the Island of St. Pierre and in France, have not succeeded as well as was expected; so that it remains well proved that the agency of the sun will always be the best that can be employed for the drying of codfish.

The Codfishery off the coasts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, I repeat again, is a most important branch of industry, and gives rise to a considerable trade, as well with the Lower Provinces as with the United States and with countries beyond the sea. Unfortunately, the greater part of this trade does not belong to Canada. For, not to mention the exports of Codfish from Newfoundland to Spain, to Italy, to the West Indies and to Brazil, nor the immense quantity of Codfish that French fishermen come and take every year on the Great Bank off Newfoundland, and on the northern and western coasts of Newfoundland, we find fishermen from Nova Scotia and the United States on our coasts, from the Spring to the Autumn, in well-equipped vessels, busily employed taking our finest fish; and we find them afterwards, with these very fish, competing with us in foreign markets, and almost always successfully.

All along the coast of Nova Scotia, and in almost all the maritime towns of the States of Maine and Massachusetts the fisheries constitute the chief branch of industry, absorbing a large amount of capital, giving employment to the greatest number of seamen and vessels, yielding the largest profits, and affording the means of living to a considerable portion of the population.

In Canada the Fisheries are known only on the coast of Gaspé; in the interior of the country, and above all in Upper Canada, their importance is not even suspected.

Our city merchants are content with receiving for sale on commission the fish which is brought to them by the fishermen. None of them, not one large shipowner of Quebec or Montreal, has yet determined upon carrying on the Codfishery, and an export trade in Codfish, on a large scale. And yet, nowhere in all America is there a greater abundance of fish of all kinds, than on the coasts of Canada. And what proves this clearly is, that they are visited every year by from 250 to 300 fishing schooners from Nova Scotia, and by from 200 to 300 fishing schooners from the United States, more than half of which come for the codfishery only. What, then, has kept this branch of industry in our country? What are the causes that have prevented it from developing itself in the same proportions here as in the neighboring countries? Many causes. First of all, the want of capital; then the total absence of communication during winter between the central part of Canada and the coast of Gaspé, and, until these last years, the difficulty of maintaining commercial intercourse by sea between Montreal and Quebec and the principal Canadian ports on the Gulf, and, I must add, the little spirit of enterprise on the part of a large portion of the inhabitants.

Several of these causes now exist no longer. Easy and certain communications by steamers have been opened not only between Quebec and the coast of Gaspé, but also with the coasts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Formerly it took one often a fortnight or three weeks to go from Quebec to Gaspé, now it is an affair of from thirty-six to forty hours. The Government is making a road, the Natapedia road, which will connect the settlements at the head of the Bay of Chaleurs and on the River Reotigouche with those on the banks of the St. Lawrence. Capital, although not abundant, is certainly not entirely wanting at present. But, I say it again, the little spirit of enterprise that people have in the central parts of Canada, and their want of practical knowledge of the importance of the fisheries, and of the precious and inexhaustible resources they offer, are the principal causes which have retarded the development of our fisheries.

We have thousands of fishermen, thousands of fishing boats, some hundred schooners engaged in the cod fishery, the herring fishery, the seal fishery and the whale fishery. We export fish to the value of about \$1,000,000 annually.

On the coasts of Gaspé and on the north shore we have large establishments, rivalling those of the French and of the people of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and the United States; but they were founded, for the most part, by persons who, although British subjects, it is true, did not belong to Canada; and even now, the chief proprietors reside in the channel islands, which are thus enriched by the accumulated profits of the Canadian fisheries.

Let us hope, however, that a new era in the history of our fisheries, fruitful in happy results, is at hand; and that their great commercial importance and the immense value of their resources is at last about to be understood in Canada.

I have already described, within the last four or five years, great advances in the different departments of this branch of industry, particularly since the north shore—previously included in the King's posts—have been open to all fishermen; and I have easily proved the truth of my assertions from the customs returns which show an increase of 100 per cent in the value of the exports of cod and other fish to foreign countries.

But what will undoubtedly help more than anything else to draw the attention of capitalists and shipowners to the great wealth of our fisheries, is the bounty which the Government offers every one of the Queen's Canadian subjects who chooses to engage in the fisheries. I have always recommended that measure, not as a permanent one, not as a necessary and indispensable means for the maintenance of this branch of industry;—for this branch of industry is sufficiently profitable to those who understand it, to be able to support itself; but as an enticement, as a stimulus. The profits to be obtained in the fisheries are generally so certain and so considerable that as soon as they are carried on with intelligence

and sagacity on a large scale, and with the economy which distinguishes the Jersey fishermen, the Government may, in a few years, without any danger to our fisheries, do away with the bounty.

The Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick gave bounties to their fisheries for several years, and the good results that followed proved the excellence of the measure.

The Government of the United States has, for the last sixty years, given large bounties to the codfisheries.

It is well known that the French Government spends several millions of francs every year in developing its Newfoundland fisheries.

Holland became a great maritime power in the seventeenth century solely by means of the immense resources placed at her command by her herring fisheries; and it was by means of bounties that she had developed them.

So that our Government has but followed the example of several other countries in offering the encouragement of a bounty to our fisheries.

Now I can prove that last year the good effects of this important measure had been already felt. At the Magdalen Islands all the vessels fit for sea, to the number of 25, went to the fisheries. Their crews were larger than in previous years, and they were much better found. New vessels also, larger than the old ones, are being built.

On the coast of Gaspé, where they had been satisfied with fishing for cod from boats near the shore, more than thirty schooners have been fitted out and sent to fish on the north shore, besides those engaged in carrying fish.

In the parishes below Quebec a number of schooners have been well fitted out, not only for the cod and herring fisheries, but also for the seal fishery.

These are certainly good results; and there is every reason to hope that in a few years we shall have to rejoice at the extension and increased importance of our fisheries, encouraged and protected as they now are by the Government.

THE HERRING FISHERY.

The herring, (*Clupea harengus*) of the genus *Clupea*, and of the family of the *Clupeidae*, is one of the fishes that are met with in greatest quantity along the coasts of North America, from the latitude of New York to Hudson's Bay.

Naturalists are not agreed as to whether or not there is more than one variety of this fish, though some American authors give the name of *Clupea elongata* to the variety which frequents the coast of the United States. The herring found along the coasts of England, Ireland and Scotland, certainly differs a little from ours; it is shorter and smaller than that which is taken off the coast of Labrador, and it is said to taste better.

The herring, like the cod, inhabits cold and temperate climates. In winter it disappears from our coasts and resorts to the depths of the ocean, or perhaps, as some Naturalists pretend, to the Arctic seas, where it finds an abundance of the crustacea on which it feeds; but no sooner has spring returned, and the ice disappeared, than the herring, impelled by a powerful instinct, tending to the reproduction of its species, is seen to arrive in immense shoals on all the coasts in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, especially on the Southern coast of Newfoundland, in the Gut of Canso, at the Magdalen Islands, and in the Bay of Chaleurs.

Owing to some cause which no one has been able to explain satisfactorily, the herring does not visit the coast of Labrador in the Spring; or if it does, it is only in small numbers.

At Pleasant Bay, in the Magdalen Islands, herrings make their appearance at the beginning of May, and almost always in large shoals. They come very near the shore, entering even into the lagunes of House Harbour, and sometimes in such dense shoals, that the pressure upon each other, often increased by the force of the tide, kills them by thousands.

In the Bay of Chaleurs, especially in Cascapedia Bay, in Carleton Bay, and at Port Daniel, they present themselves in as great numbers as at the Magdalen Islands, and always for the purpose of spawning; which is a highly favorable circumstance for the fishermen.

The female herrings come very near the shore, in calm weather, and generally at night, to deposit their ova in from one fathom, to three fathoms depth of water. The males fol-

low, and swimming above the ova, shed over them their milt, which, being spread about by the water, comes in contact with some of the ova and fecundates them.

It is impossible to form a correct idea, without seeing it, of the prodigious abundance of the ova of the Herring deposited at the Magdalen Islands, and generally on all the coasts where the Herring spawns. I have seen the shore at Pleasant Bay covered two or three feet deep with them for several miles; and often times, on returning to my vessel of a calm evening, I have seen the sea white with milt for several acres around, though when I passed the same spot two hours before the water was of the usual color. This will, perhaps, appear astonishing to some persons; but they will soon recover from their astonishment when they reflect upon the fact that each female Herring has from six to eight millions of ova in its ovaries; and that each male is furnished with a proportionate quantity of milt.

Providence has, no doubt, ordained that there should be this prodigious quantity of ova, in order that there should remain enough for the preservation of the species in the numerical proportion required by the Creator, notwithstanding a loss of a great portion of them, some of which are not fecundated and are therefore unproductive, while others are washed on shore by the waves or are devoured by the little fishes, numerous kinds of which use them for food.

Notwithstanding the immense numbers that have been taken in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and along the coasts of Newfoundland, the Herring has not perceptibly diminished in abundance there. It may indeed, for several years at a time, have presented itself in smaller numbers at certain places, or even have disappeared from certain coasts; but these phenomena were rather owing to peculiar circumstances arising from the weather and the action of the winds. They re-appeared afterwards in these same places, and more abundantly than ever. The same thing has happened on the coast of Norway. For thirty years the summer shoals of Herrings (called there *sommersild*;) had entirely disappeared from the coast to the North of Christiansund, which they had frequented during twenty consecutive years; but for the last twenty-five years, or thereabouts, they have returned thither regularly again.

As soon as the act of reproduction has been accomplished, the shoals of Herrings disperse themselves throughout the Gulf in every direction, as I have had opportunities of observing in my voyages and cruises there during the last eight years.

At the latter end of August, and during the months of September and October, the coast of Labrador from Cape Mecatina to Cape Charles, and from thence to Hudson's Bay, is visited by shoals of very large, fat Herrings, well known throughout Canada by the name of Labrador Herrings. Neither ova nor milt are found in them, so that they do not come to spawn. They are probably Herrings that made their appearance in the spring on the coasts of Newfoundland, at the Magdalen Islands, and in the Bay of Chaleurs, returning to the main ocean, or making their way to the Arctic seas.

Both the shape and the flesh of the autumn Herring differ very much, it is true, from those of the spring Herring, so that one would almost think they were of different species; but knowing as we do how much fishes change, even in the space of a few months, especially after the spawning season, we are constrained to believe they are the same.

During the summer season large numbers of Herrings are to be met with along the coast of Gaspé, and even along the North shore of the St. Lawrence, but they are not in shoals. It is only off Caraquette that they are found in small shoals, on reefs and in shallow places, where the fishermen of that locality take considerable numbers of them with nets in the month of October.

As might naturally be expected, the appearance of the Herring in immense shoals along the coasts of the Gulf does not fail to engage the attention of our fishermen, for whom its capture is a highly profitable employment.

No sooner, in the spring, has the first shoal of Herrings been observed at any place along the coast, than all the fishermen in the neighborhood repair to the beach with their nets, their seines, and all their other fishing tackle. Soon a great number of boats are plying in every direction about the bays and coves where the fish are expected. These contain the fishermen, who go to spread their nets so as to intercept the shoals of Herring when seeking to approach the shore at night, for the purpose of spawning.

At the Magdalen Islands, and in the Bay of Chaleurs, as well as along a portion of the coast of Gaspé immense numbers of herrings are taken in the spring. At Pleasant Bay more than 50,000 barrels are taken with nets and seines every year, in the space of 15 days at the most. The same thing happens on the coast of Gaspé, although there the seine is less used.

As I have said, the nets, which are generally thirty fathoms long, by five or six wide, are set in the afternoon, and in the morning the fishermen visit them and take out the fish, generally to the extent of from five to ten barrels full out of each net, each night, when the fishing is good. The nets remain set as long as the fishing lasts, although they are sometimes taken up to be cleaned.

But there is a much more expeditious mode of taking herrings than with a net, and that is with a seine. Seines for this purpose must be of large dimensions, say from one hundred to one hundred and thirty fathoms long, by from eight to eleven fathoms wide, with braces two hundred fathoms long. They cost a good deal of money, and require many hands to work them, so that it is not every fisherman that can have one. Large seines, indeed, are seldom seen, except in the possession of Americans or Nova Scotians. I have observed with pleasure, however, of late years, that they have begun to be introduced into Canada; experience having shewn our fishermen, that the only way to make large profits is to fish on a large scale, and with the best kind of tackle.

Those who fish with nets, when once they have set them in places where they think the greatest number of fish will pass, wait for the fish to go of their own accord, and get taken. Those who fish with the seine, on the contrary, go out in search of the fish along the coasts they expect them to approach, with the seine in a large boat, manned by eight men. A score of seamen in smaller boats precede and follow the seine-boat, and look out in every direction for signs of the presence of shoals of herrings. If the surface of the water is agitated at any particular spot, they make towards it immediately; when they get to it they stop and look about them, leaning over the sides of their boats and gazing down into the depths of the sea. Their cruises are frequently unsuccessful. Sometimes they row for whole days without seeing a single fish, or see them only in too deep water for seining. But they have also their strokes of good fortune; and fishermen with seines of the large dimensions I have described often take, at a single haul of the seine, herrings enough to fill 500, 1,000, 2,000 or even 3,000 barrels. One need not be surprised at such great results, when one reflects that herrings in a shoal are so crowded together as to form a compact mass from the surface of the water to the bottom.

When the seine is so much loaded with fish it cannot be hauled on shore without risk of breaking it and losing all the riches it contains. In that case the braces are made fast on shore and the fishermen seine with small seines inside of the large one; or, if the fish are very thick, they are taken out with scoop nets, or landing nets.

If the weather is calm, or the wind is off the land, the seine may be left moored in this way for several days, or until all the fish have been taken out of it; but if, unfortunately, a sea breeze springs up and it begins to blow hard, the seine must be taken up at once or it will be torn to pieces by the violence of the waves. Many thousands of barrels of fish are lost in this way.

On the coast of Labrador the Herring fishery is carried on in September and October, sometimes even beginning as early as the latter end of August. The first Herrings taken are not generally very fat; but after them come those fine fish that are so well known. The Labrador Herring is almost always taken with the seine.

Herrings do not frequent all parts of the coast in equal numbers. There are places where hardly any are to be seen, while they make their appearance in great numbers at other places, such as Belles Amours Harbour, Bradore Bay, Blancs Sablons Bay, and many other smaller bays on our coasts, *Anse au Clair*, Forteau Bay, Red Bay, Modeste Islands, and a great many other important stations on the coast of Labrador belonging to Newfoundland, and St. Barbe's Bay, St. Genevieve's Bay, St. Féréole's Bay, and St. Margaret's Bay on the Northern coast of Newfoundland.

It is to these bays and harbors that the fishermen resort for the pursuit of their calling. As at the spring fishing they scour the coast in search of shoals of Herring; and the difficulties they meet with are even greater than in the beginning of the season, because fish are not plenty, and there is more bad weather. But, on the other hand, the fish are

of greater value, and are worth more than twice as much as those that are taken at the Magdalen Islands.

Owing to the thick coating of fat which covers the flesh of these Labrador Herrings, they must be salted immediately, and with great care, to prevent their turning yellow and spoiling. The spring Herrings require less care. They are almost always salted whole; that is to say, without opening them and taking out their entrails.

The produce of the spring fishing goes to Nova Scotia and the United States, and from thence to the West Indies. The Labrador Herring comes to Canada, and is consumed chiefly by the Irish and Scotch.

It will be seen from the Statistical Returns accompanying my Report, that the Herring fisheries are very productive; but they could still afford employment to more than a hundred additional vessels, and more than a thousand additional hands, particularly the Labrador Herring fishery.

The Custom House Returns notice only the salt fish exported from Canada to foreign countries; but it must not be forgotten that the population of Upper and Lower Canada consume a large quantity also, which I estimate at near 10,000 barrels, and almost all Herrings.

THE MACKEREL FISHERY.

The Mackerel (*Scomber Vernalis*), of the genus *Scomber*, and of the family of the *Scomberoides*, is one of the most valuable of all the fish that visit the coasts of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Unfortunately, we have only lately begun to appreciate it as it deserves in this country; and it may be said that the Mackerel fishery along the shores of Canada is still in its infancy.

It was formerly thought that the Mackerel inhabited the frozen seas during winter; but that opinion has been given up, and naturalists now tell us that when it quits our shores it retires to the bottom of the ocean, there to wait until the return of spring enables it once more to approach the land.

The Mackerel is met with along the coasts of the United States as far South as Cape Anne, in the Bay of Fundy, off the coast of Nova Scotia, in the Gut of Canso, and sometimes off the coast of Newfoundland; but nowhere is it more plentiful than along the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, especially off the coast of Prince Edward's Island, in the Bay of Chaleurs at the Magdalen Islands, and in the lower part of the River St. Lawrence, as far up as Matane and the River Godbout. It is sometimes found along the shore and the coast of Labrador, but not in great numbers.

Like the Herring, the Mackerel comes in shore to spawn. It arrives at the end of May or beginning of June. But it does not make its appearance at that time in such great numbers as the Herrings in the preceding month, and the large shoals resort to the Magdalen Islands only, so that nowhere else in Canada is it taken in nets.

The Mackerel, after having spawned, disappears entirely from Pleasant Bay about the 15th of June. Yet, about the end of July it begins to be seen again at the Magdalen Islands, at first in small numbers, but afterwards it becomes more plentiful, and in the months August, September, and October, it is to be met with all round that group of Islands. It makes its appearance at the same period in the Bay of Chaleurs also, as well as off the coast of Gaspé and along the shores of the River St. Lawrence. It is then in the best possible condition, and more than twice as fat as it was in the month of June. We all know that the Mackerel, like almost all other fishes, grows very lean during the time it is engaged in performing the important functions tending to the reproduction of its species. It begins to fatten immediately after it has spawned, and the later in the season it is taken the finer it is.

I have said that the Mackerel has only recently been appreciated at its just value in Canada. The fact is the people of the Magdalen Islands have only fished for it during twenty years past, at the most; and even then they have had to learn to do it from American and Nova Scotian fishermen. I am now speaking of the spring fishing. As to the summer Mackerel fishing, which is by far the most important, it may be said to be entirely in the hands of the American fishermen. Our fishermen are content to fish for Mackerel from boats, near the shore, when Cod fails.

Fishing for Mackerel with hooks and lines is carried on chiefly in Pleasant Bay, off North Pond, around the Island of Bonaventure, in the Bay of Chaleurs, and in Gaspé Bay. At Sheldrake, Seven Islands, and the River Godbout our fishermen sometimes take them with the seine.

The seafaring population of the maritime towns in the Northern States, especially the State of Massachusetts, make Mackerel fishing one of their chief pursuits. Nearly a thousand of their vessels, worth not less than five millions of dollars, and manned by more than twelve thousand seamen, are employed in it.

The American Mackerel schooners, especially those which sail from Gloucester, a trading port which owes its existence to the fisheries, and which alone sends out more than four hundred, are the finest vessels and the best sailers of their class in the world, and form a fleet of little vessels of which the maritime population of Maine and Massachusetts are justly proud.

These schooners leave the ports to which they belong about the middle of July, and immediately on their arrival in the Gulf, a week after, their crews commence fishing. They generally make for our shores, because near them the fish are most abundant.

As the Mackerel fishing carried on by American fishermen in the Gulf is a source of great profit to them, and a matter of some interest to us, inasmuch as a great proportion of the fish they carry home with them are taken in Canadian waters, I will describe it a little in detail:

The summer Mackerel fishing is carried on in two ways: with hooks and lines, and with the seine.

The greater number of fishermen use the hook and line. These are the crews of those beautiful schooners to be met with everywhere in the Southern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, during the months of July, August, and September, and which, from far, look more like a small squadron of yachts than a fleet of fishing vessels, so beautiful are their masts and sails, and so neat and clean are they kept.

But on a nearer approach this is found to be an error; for on the decks of these vessels are to be seen crews of from ten to twenty men, all occupied either in catching fish, in repairing fishing implements, or in splitting and salting the fish that have been taken; and what is most striking is the order that reigns on board of these Schooners, whose decks and holds are almost always full of fish, fish barrels, salt, &c.

These Schooners are generally of from 60 to 100 tons burthen. They have little depth of hold, great breadth of beam, rake very much fore and aft, and carry large cotton sails which enable them to sail fast, even with a light breeze. Their decks are roomy, and on them the whole work of salting and barrelling, &c., is carried on.

Before sailing from their port of outfit for the the Gulf of St. Lawrence, they provide themselves with several barrels of very fat little fish, called poggies, to serve as bait, and as feed for the purpose of attracting the Mackerel to the surface of the water and retaining them near the vessel. At a later period, when the poggies are exhausted, recourse is had to the offal of the Mackerel for bait, and it is prepared in this way; whole fishes, or the offal of fishes, either poggies, Mackerel or others, are chopped up very fine in a machine something like a straw-cutter, and then put into a large bucket full of salt water; the mixture is then stirred for a long time with a small paddle, and this is the whole secret of preparing feed or bait for Mackerel. Machines for chopping up the fish are sold for from \$5 to \$7, according to their size.

As soon as the Schooners have reached the places where shoals of Mackerel are usually found, they keep cruising backwards and forwards, and the moment there is the least appearance of fish, or their presence is even suspected, near a vessel, the jibs are taken in, and the vessel is brought to, with the mizen sail and mainsail veered half round. Feed is then scattered all around, from small pails, the fishermen seize their lines, bait their hooks with small pieces of the skin of the neck of the Mackerel, or any other fish, (but the Mackerel is much preferable) and throw them into the water. The lines are fine and are made of hemp or cotton, generally the latter. They are from six to eight fathoms long, and to one end is fastened a small sinker of polished pewter, oblong in shape, and weighing about two ounces, to one end of which is soldered a middle sized hook.

Each fisherman plies two lines, one in each hand, and leans on the rail while fishing. He very seldom pays out more than four or five fathoms of line, for the Mackerel, attracted

by the chopped fish thrown over board, thousands of pieces of which float in mid water, leaves the depths of the sea, and comes swimming towards the surface, to feast with avidity on this excellent bait, prepared for him with so much care; and while he is gorging himself with pieces of poggie and Mackerel, he seizes the bait on the fisherman's hook, and soon, in spite of his violent efforts to break the iron that is tearing his mouth and to free himself, he is pulled out of the water and thrown upon the deck, where he dies before long.

Such is the method of taking Mackerel with the line pursued by the American fishermen; and our own, as well as those of Nova Scotia and the other Provinces, have adopted it as being the best. But it is far from being invariably successful; for it very often happens that the fish, finding plenty of food at the bottom of the sea, will not rise to the bait, or care so little for it as hardly to bite at the hooks. But the great difficulty with the fishermen is to find the shoals of Mackerel. It is almost always an affair of chance.

When Mackerel swim near the surface, as they do when they are pursued by the porpoise or some other of the large fish that prey upon them, they are easily recognized, especially by the experienced fishermen, by the ripple they make in the water, and sometimes by the noise they make by beating the water with their tails; and the moment they are seen from the fishing Schooners, these bear down upon them and make all sail, so as to reach the place where they are as quickly as possible. Then quantities of bait are thrown into the water, and if the fish are hungry a good take may be expected. From fifteen to thirty barrels of Mackerel, for example, may be taken in a forenoon by a crew of fifteen. But Mackerel do not always show themselves near the surface; on the contrary, they generally keep at a great depth, in order not to be seen; and then the fishermen are obliged to seek for them. For this purpose they cruise with their vessels, as I have said already, in certain places, from sunrise to sunset; and I should add that in fine weather they stop every half hour, and sometimes oftener, to throw bait into the water, in the hope that some shoals of Mackerel may see it, and allow themselves to be attracted by it to the surface. The Mackerel fishing Schooners, which are almost always good sailers, often sail from 60 to 100 miles in a day, on a cruise of this kind; and they may cruise for a week at a time, and sometimes longer, without taking a single fish. I meet many of these Schooners during my cruises in the Gulf; and as I make it my duty to obtain all the information I can from them, I have often been told by Captains who had been fishing a great part of the season, that they had not taken fish enough to pay for the board of their hands, while others have informed me that they had loaded their vessels in the space of a fortnight or three weeks.

It will be seen from what I have said that the Mackerel fishery is difficult, precarious and uncertain. It requires, therefore, to be carried on with sagacity and perseverance, qualities for which the American fishermen are distinguished. Hitherto they have succeeded the best in this branch of industry, which is assuming very considerable proportions in some of their Northern sea-ports.

If the owners of vessels that have not had good fishing lose money, on the other hand, those whose vessels have been successful, and have been able to make several voyages in one season, make large profits, particularly when Mackerel sells, as it has done for some years past, at from eight dollars to twenty dollars per barrel, of 200 pounds.

This fishery is certainly worthy of the attention of Canadian Ship-owners and merchants, especially those of Quebec; and it is to be hoped that many years will not elapse before we also have our fleet of Mackerel fishing Schooners.

It is difficult to state the exact quantity of Mackerel the American fishermen come and take every year along our coasts,—from before our very doors, as it were; but I think I am within bounds in estimating it at 55,000 barrels, of the value of not less than \$600,000,—that is to say, more than half the value of all the fish exported from Canada.

The Mackerel fishery in Canada does not yield 5,000 barrels.

These figures speak for themselves. I need add no comments on the state of inferiority to the American fishermen with respect to the Mackerel fishery in which we find ourselves.

THE SEAL FISHERY.

The Seal or Sea-calf is a carnivorous and amphibious animal, belonging to the order of mammalia. There are several varieties, three of which are peculiarly deserving of our attention: these are the Harbour Seal, (*Phoca Vitulina*) whose average length is three feet; the Harp Seal, (*Phoca Grœnlandica*) whose average length is five feet; and the Hooded Seal, (*Phoca Leonina*) which is sometimes nine feet long, with a moveable sack on its head, formed of several folds of skin, with which it can cover its eyes and its muzzle when it likes.

The two latter varieties assemble together in herds, and are migratory. The Harbour Seals appear to live apart, and are to be met with in the same places at all seasons of the year.

Seals have round elongated bodies, gradually diminishing in size from the chest to the tail, and thickly covered with short smooth hair,—their lower extremities are short and end in webbed feet, something like the fins of the *cetacea*, while the upper extremities which are longer, but very strong and muscular, and terminate in webbed hands, resemble the fins of fishes.

Owing to this formation, the Seal is the best swimmer among the *mammalia*, with the exception of the *cetacea*; and it succeeds in catching the most active fish that are known, and among others the Salmon, of which it seems to be very fond, and against which it wages a deadly war in the estuaries of rivers.

Almost all kinds of Seals couple in June; and the females bring forth their young (seldom more than one at a time) in March, on floating fields of ice. The young are born with white hair, and remain on the ice as long as they are suckled by their mothers. At three or four weeks old they can live in the water; but for some months they continue to follow their mothers, who partly provide for their support and defend them against the attacks of other creatures.

Seals are fond of approaching the shore and landing on sandy beaches or flat rocks, to bask in the sun; but at the slightest noise, and especially if they perceive the fishermen, they make for the sea, and disappear under its waters. Nevertheless, if they are taken young they are easily tamed, especially the common seal; and they attach themselves to their masters, whom they follow about everywhere, and for whom they seem to entertain an affection as lively as that of the dog.

The herds of seals that frequent the Gulf of St. Lawrence arrive there in the month of November. They come chiefly through the Straits of Belle Isle. They keep very close in to the coasts either of Labrador or of Newfoundland, penetrating into all the bays, and not going out far from land when doubling the points and capes. They often stop to sport when they find a favorable place for the purpose. It is then they are seen to dive repeatedly, coming up again almost immediately, and to roll themselves about and beat the water with their hands. The fishermen call this brewing, and hence the name of "brewer" given to those kinds found on our coasts.

In winter they spread themselves through the Gulf in search of icebergs, on which they live for several months. In the months of May and June the herds of seals reappear on our coasts; but then they pursue an opposite course to that of the preceding autumn. Afterwards they go out of the Gulf into the main ocean, and probably repair to Hudson's Bay and the Arctic seas.

Seals are of great value, not only on account of the thick layer of fat between their skin and their muscles, which yields an oil superior to that of the whale, but also on account of their skin, which is used as a covering for trunks and valises, and which, moreover, tans well and makes excellent leather. Their importance in a commercial point of view was soon perceived by the first mariners who visited the Gulf of St. Lawrence, for no sooner was Canada discovered than the seal fishery was prosecuted on our coasts; and if we are to believe the accounts of several voyages to the coast of Labrador in the last century, which have come down to us in manuscript and by tradition, immense numbers of them were taken at that period.

Then, as now, nets were used for the purpose of capturing these marine animals.

These nets are made of a hempen cord which is very strong, although not more than the twelfth part of an inch thick. The meshes are eight inches square, and will admit the head and neck of the seal. Some nets are more than one hundred fathoms long, by

ten fathoms wide; and several nets placed together as advantageously as possible, for the purpose of taking seals when they are migrating in herds in the spring or in the autumn, form what the fishermen call a set of nets. Some of these sets of nets in use on our coasts are of great value, costing as they do as much as £1500 for cord alone, to say nothing of the anchors and cables by which they are kept in their proper places after they are set.

The usual time for the Seals to pass near the shore on their migratory voyage being known, the nets are set a few days before. One of the fishermen is posted as a sentry on a rock, a little in advance of the fishery, to give notice of the approach of herds of Seals, and the moment there are any in the fishery the signal is given, and the fishermen hasten to raise, by means of a capstan, a net sunk by leaden weights to the bottom of the water at the entrance of the fishery. With this they close the opening through which the Seals made their ingress; and as soon as this operation is completed, and the seals are fairly imprisoned, the fishermen jump into their boats and enter the fishery shouting and beating the water with their paddles, and sometimes firing off guns. The frightened Seals, trying to escape, dive down and run their heads into the meshes of the nets, which are kept always open by means of cables round the borders of the nets, hove taut by capstans.

As soon as all the Seals are caught in the meshes, the men underrun the nets, knock on the head with iron clubs, those that are not strangled, and carry them all on shore in their canoes.

The Autumn Seal fishery takes place on the coast of Labrador at the end of November, and in the month of December, and is very arduous by reason of the severity of the cold at that season, and of the ice-fields which often break through the sets and tear the nets, if care is not taken to take them up. The Seals are no sooner taken out of the water than they become frozen; and in that state they are put into stores, and it is not until the spring, when the warm air has softened them, that they are cut up, and their fat is melted in iron pots.

The spring fishing is carried on nearly in the same way as the autumn fishing, with this difference, that the entrance of the fishery is to the Westward, because then the Seals are going out of the Gulf.

The fat of Seals taken in the spring is softer and more mellow than that of those taken in the autumn, and it is melted in the sun in large wooden tubs. It is in this way that the pale Seal oil of commerce is obtained.

The spring and autumn Seal fishings are carried on along the Canadian shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Blancs Sablons Bay to Cape Whittle, and yield the fishermen annually, from 5,000 to 7,000 Seals, of the value of from one pound to three pounds each. But it is rather precarious; and it fails sometimes, by reason of the cold, or of the ice, or of calm weather or adverse winds. A sea breeze is most favorable to this fishery, and it does not require clear weather; on the contrary, misty weather is better for it.

I shall not describe the seal fishing stations belonging to Canada on the North Shore, as I have done so already in my report for 1857. I will merely add that seals are not taken in nets on the coast of Gaspé, at the Magdalen Islands, or on that part of the North Shore which lies between Cape Whittle and the River St. Lawrence, because these animals do not approach the shore in herds at these places.

Seals are not only taken in nets near the shore, in the manner I have just described, but they are also pursued in every direction, and are sought for on the ice-fields, not only in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence but also in the Atlantic, and at a considerable distance from Newfoundland and the Island of Cape Breton.

The expeditions that are fitted out for this kind of fishing, or rather of hunting, require to start soon after the young ones are dropped, in order to find them still on the ice-fields; for, once they are in the water, seals, whether young or old, can set the most practised fishermen at defiance, and it is useless to attempt to pursue them.

At Newfoundland sealing, as it is called, is carried on on a large scale. The vessels employed in it are brigs and top-sail schooners, solidly built, well strengthened within to enable them to resist pressure from the ice, and plated with iron forward to prevent their being cut through by it. They have crews of from 20 to 60 men, and carry half a score of small boats, which the men drag after them on the ice and make use of to cross the open water dividing the fields or bergs from each other. This branch of industry has attained to considerable proportions in that island. Nearly 350 vessels, measuring more than 80-

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000 tons, and carrying 10,000 men, leave the ports of Newfoundland every year in the months of March and April for the purpose of hunting seals on the ice-fields wherever they can be found; and the profits derived from these dangerous and fatiguing expeditions are very great indeed, and sometimes even enormous.

It appears by the Customs Returns, that from 400,000 to 700,000 seal skins are exported from Newfoundland every year. These figures will convey, better than any observations I could make, an idea of the value and importance of this fishery.

The vessels employed in the seal fishery in Canada are of from 30 to 80 tons burden, and until late years it was only at the Magdalen Islands that this branch of industry was pursued. As capital was entirely wanting there, the vessels were badly equipped; and notwithstanding the well known courage, dexterity and experience of the fishermen of those Islands, it was out of their power to make great profits. Within the last four or five years, however, larger and better schooners have been built at House Harbor and at Amherst Harbor; and the fishermen of these two ports carry on seal fishery with better success now than they did formerly. But although the number of vessels at the Magdalen Islands has increased of late years, there are as yet but 25, manned by 260 fishermen; this is very little in comparison with some of the ports of Newfoundland. There are seamen enough, however, at the Magdalen Islands to man 100 fishing vessels; but, as I have said, capital is wanting. The majority of the inhabitants have not even the means of building little schooners for themselves.

For two or three years past schooners have been fitted out on the coast of Gaspé, and even in some parishes below Quebec, and sent to the North Shore in pursuit of seals; and, notwithstanding the inexperience of those on board, they have brought back pretty good cargoes of the fat of these animals. I know that several other owners of vessels in the same localities have made arrangements for sending them, well found in all necessary equipments, to winter in some ports on the North Shore, so as to be able to go to sea early in the spring, and reach the ice between the North Shore and the Island of Anticosti before the end of March.

I have already mentioned, in my report for 1857, how Mr. Vignault, sailing out of the port of Natashquan, with his schooner of 40 tons burden, manned by seven men, about the end of April, found floating fields of ice not far from Point Natashquan, covered with Seals, and killed 600 of them in eight days. At the same time, and only a few miles off, a brig from Newfoundland took 3,000.

Mr. Vignault, who now resides at Natashquan, was equally successful in his Seal fishing in 1858 and 1859.

Last year there were fitted out for the Seal fisheries from 30 to 35 Canadian vessels; some from the Magdalen Islands, and the others from the North Shore, from Gaspé, and from the parishes below Quebec. They brought back 8,000 seals, the skins and fat of which were worth from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

The autumn Seal fishery of 1858, at Labrador, was bad and did not yield more than 4,500 Seals, worth at least \$3 each, or \$36,000 in all. It must be borne in mind that Seals taken in the autumn are all full grown, and yield more fat than those taken on the ice-fields in the spring, when they are only a month old or a little more.

THE WHALE FISHERY.

The Whale fishery on our coasts has hardly made any advance, although it has been followed for a long time. The first persons who pursued this branch of industry in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, were some fishermen from Nantucket, who came to Gaspé Basin during the war of the American Revolution; but it was on a very small scale at first, for their means did not admit of their making extensive outfits. Afterwards, however, they were enabled to procure larger vessels, and make greater profits; and to this day the schooners that are fitted out every year from Gaspé, for the Whale fishery, are chiefly owned by their descendants. These schooners are ten in number, and are manned by nearly 200 seamen, who are not inferior to American or to English fishermen either in skill, in hardihood, or in courage.

The Whales that frequent the Gulf are the Black Whale, the Humpbacked Whale, the Sulphur Bottomed Whale, and the Finner Whale.

The Black Whale which is the most valuable of all, has been met with, unfortunately in very small numbers of late years, and it has been very seldom that our whalers have had the good fortune to kill one. The Humpbacked Whale, so called on account of a hump on its back, is the most common in the Gulf, and the easiest to kill. As soon as its pursuers get near enough, they strike a harpoon into it, and allow their boat to be towed after it by means of a line attached to the harpoon until it is exhausted, when they approach it again and kill it with a spear.

The Sulphur Bottom and the Finner are so quick in their movements, and at the same time so wild, that it is difficult and dangerous to attack one in front and strike a harpoon into it, before it has been wounded with long sharp spears, which penetrate three or four feet into its flesh. After that it is tracked through the water by its blood, and if overtaken when the great loss of blood occasioned by its wounds has obliged it to slacken its furious course, it is harpooned and towed alongside the vessel.

If this happens far from land the Whale is cut up alongside, and the pieces of blubber are stowed in the hold; if near the shore it is towed into port or some well sheltered bay, and some of the crew are left on shore to make the blubber into oil, while the vessel puts out to sea again in search of fresh prizes.

The Whalers leave Gaspé Basin, where they are fitted out, at the beginning of June not to return for the purpose of laying up until the middle of September. The places they prefer to all others, because they generally find shoals of Whales there, are the Mingan shoals, at the west point of the Island of Anticosti, the River St. John on the north shore, and the St. John shoal, off the Island of St. John, on the north-west coast of Newfoundland. They cruise along the coast of Labrador, off the Great River Mecatina, off Gaspé Bay, and in the lower part of the River St. Lawrence, where Whales are met with as high up as the River Saguenay.

It seems that the Whale repairs for the winter to waters of higher temperature than those of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It finds such on the south-west coast of the United States, where it brings forth its young.

Towards the end of May, Whales make their appearance in the Gulf followed by their calves, (at that time from 8 to 12 feet long), which they seem to cherish with maternal tenderness, and which they defend with fury when attacked by large fish or by the whalers. The calves feed so plentifully on Capelin, Launce and Herring, in the Gulf, that they grow very rapidly, and attain half their full size by the end of the season.

The whaling schooners from Gaspé bring back from twenty thousand to thirty thousand dollars' worth of oil every year.

A Black Whale will yield from 100 to 500 barrels of excellent oil, besides the fins, which are of great value.

The Humpback, the Sulphur Bottom, and the Finner produce from 10 to 100 barrels of oil only.

I may remark that the Whale Fishery has been attended this year with very satisfactory results.

THE SALMON FISHERY.

The Salmon, (*Salmo Salar*), of the family of the *Salmonidæ*, is so well known in North America that I need not describe it. It is justly styled the king of fresh water fish. It is brought forth in rivers,—and in them it passes three-fourths of the year. It resorts to waters that run over gravelly bottoms. On the breaking up of the ice in the Spring it migrates towards the sea, but returns to the rivers in the months of June and July, for the purpose of accomplishing the important function of perpetuating its species by means of the spawn which it deposits and fecundates, in North America in August, September, or October, (the period varying according to the latitude and temperature of each place).

Before repairing to the most favorable spots in the rivers for the preservation and hatching of the spawn, the Salmon sojourns for some time in the brackish waters of the estuaries, in order, it is said, to get rid of the parasites with which it is covered, and to which these waters are fatal.

The places where it spawns are sometimes at very great distances from the mouths of the rivers; as in most cases it penetrates to the very lakes in which they take their rise.

Urged by an imperious instinct of nature it refuses to allow its course to be arrested by cascades, by the most rapid currents, or by any other obstacle, and it soon ceases to look like the beautiful and vigorous fish it was when it left the ocean. The exertions it has made in order to overcome all these obstacles have emaciated it, and robbed it of its lustre, and it has become languid in its movements; but it has reached the spot which its instinct compelled it to seek.

The spots which Salmon seem to prefer, are those where a gravelly bottom is covered by three or four feet of clear running water.

The act of reproduction is performed as follows: a male and a female fish dig with their heads, which they keep turned towards the current, a furrow of some inches deep. This they can easily do as the bottom is composed of very light little stones. After making the furrow, they both place themselves alongside of it, and rubbing themselves against each other, the female sheds her ova, and the male the milt that fecundates them. This process, which lasts from eight to twelve days, having been accomplished, they carefully cover the furrow up again with the gravel which they had displaced in making it.

In England, the Salmon spawns from November to the end of January, and the ova are hatched in from 90 to 100 days. In the rivers of Labrador, where the temperature of the water is lower, they must take a longer time; and it is probable even that they do not come to maturity, until the month of April. It is said that the Salmon does not go down to the sea during the first year of its existence. It is adult at the age of 3 years, but continues to grow every year afterwards, and Salmon are often caught, weighing from 40 to 55 lbs. The ordinary weight of a Salmon is from 10 lbs to 25 lbs. The fish vary in form and often in color, as well as in size, according to the rivers they frequent. It is known that Salmon almost always return to their native rivers.

The Salmon fishery, although not of the same importance as the great salt water fisheries, such as the cod fishery, the herring fishery, and the mackerel fishery, is not the less deserving of the attention of Government. It produces an excellent article, the value of which must increase when our railroad lines are prolonged to the lower part of the River, and afford facilities for its transport in a fresh state, packed in ice, in thick wooden boxes.

When Canada was first settled, our rivers were celebrated for the numbers of Salmon, and I might say also of trout, that were taken in them; and the following passages in the narrative of a voyage made in 1704, by the Sieur de Courtemanche, to whose family the Ance aux Espagnols, now known by the name of Bradore Bay, had been granted in Seignior, in 1630, substantiate my statements: "the French settlement (that of the Port of Brest) is 20 leagues from it (the great river Mecatinna); its appearance is very gay. "There is a very fine harbor there, into which, all kinds of vessels can enter. More than "100 ships could lie there together. * * * * *

"Above the fort, at the head of the Bay, are three very pretty hills, on the summits of "which are small lakes, in which trout and salmon abound to such a degree, that with two "or three hand lines, or a common net, one might tackle enough to feed a pretty large gar- "rison; and half a league lower down is the Esquimaux river, full of Salmon of extra- "dinary size."

Afterwards the rivers ceased to be so well stocked with fish, in consequence of too many being taken at all seasons of the year, and of the want of laws and regulations tending to preserve the salmon, by prescribing the manner of taking them. It is only within the last 20 or 30 years that there has been any legislation on this important subject; but the Fishery Laws at that time were a dead letter. As there was no officer to put them in force, nobody obeyed them or paid any attention to them, and the destruction of this useful fish continued until it had disappeared from several of our rivers. But within the last few years there has been a great change: good laws and judicious regulations limit the fishing to certain seasons of the year, and prescribe the kind and number of fishing implements that may be used. On many rivers, officers have been appointed to enforce them; the coasts are effectually protected; and we have every cause to hope that, in a few years, our rivers will be replenished and we shall again be able to procure, at moderate prices, this delicious fish, which ranks so high among the luxuries of the table.

The salmon fishery has been very productive this season, in the north as well as in the south. I estimate its yield in all Lower Canada at from 3500 to 3800 barrels, at the value of \$50,000. On the north shore, from the River Moisie to the boundary of Canada at Blancs Sablons Bay, about 1000 barrels were taken.

THE TROUT FISHERY.

All our rivers and lakes in Lower Canada abound with trout of all kinds. I will instance, as the best, the brook trout (*Salmo Fontinalis*), which varies in length from 6 to 20 inches, and the salmon-trout (*Salmo Trutta*), which is chiefly met with near the shores of the Gulf and the estuaries of the rivers. No expeditions are fitted out expressly for the trout fishery. It is chiefly the salmon fishers who apply themselves to this fishery also. I estimate the amount of the trout fishery at 600 barrels, of the value of \$18,000, one half of which finds its way to our markets, the remainder being consumed by the settlers along the coast.

(Copy.)

PORT OF AMHERST, C. E.

RETURN of the Number of British and Foreign Steamers and Sailing Vessels entered *Inwards* at this Port, shewing their Tonnage, number of Men employed, and the Countries whence they came, during the year ending 31st October, 1859.

	TOTAL.			GREAT BRITAIN.		BRITISH COLONIES.		UNITED STATES.		Other Foreign Countries.	
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steamers, British .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
do Foreign .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sailing vessels, British.	305	12408	1702	3	305	293	11580	8	488	1	35 (St. Pierre.)
do Foreign	69	4736	432	.....	.....	1	65	68	4671	.....	.....
	374	11744	2134	3	305	294	11645	76	5159	1	35

(Copy.)

PORT OF AMHERST, C. E.

RETURN of the Number of British and Foreign Steamers and Sailing Vessels entered *Outwards* at this Port, shewing their Tonnage, number of Men employed, and to what Country cleared, during the year 1859.

	TOTAL.			GREAT BRITAIN.		BRITISH COLONIES.		UNITED STATES.		Other Foreign Countries.	
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steamers, British .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
do Foreign .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sailing vessels, British.	226	9282	1204	.....	.....	212	8513	13	734	1	35 (St. Pierre.)
do Foreign	56	3916	351			2	191	54	3725		
Total	282	13198	1555			214	8704	67	4459	1	35

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PORT OF AMHERST, C. E.

STATEMENT shewing the Coasting Trade and the Tonnage of the Canadian Vessels, Inwards and Outwards, at this Port, during the year 1859.

INWARDS.				OUTWARDS.			
STEAM.		SAIL.		STEAM.		SAIL.	
*No.	Tons.	*No.	Tons.	*No.	Tons.	*No.	Tons.
.....		21	856	.....	.....	34	1313

*These Columns include the number of Trips made by the various Vessels.

(Copy.)

PORT OF AMHERST, C. E.

STATEMENT of the Number and Tonnage of British and American Vessels entered Inwards and Outwards, shewing the intercourse (exclusive of Ferryage) between this Port and the United States, during the year 1859.

INWARDS.								OUTWARDS.							
BRITISH.				AMERICAN.				BRITISH.				AMERICAN.			
Steam.		Sail.		Steam.		Sail.		Steam.		Sail.		Steam.		Sail.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
.....		8	488	.....	.....	68	4671	.....	.....	13	734	.....	.....	56	3916

(Copy.)

PORT OF NEW CARLISLE.

RETURN of the Number of British and Foreign Steamers and Sailing Vessels entered Inwards at this Port, shewing their Tonnage, number of men employed, and the countries whence they came, during the year ending 31st December, 1859.

	TOTAL.			GREAT BRITAIN.		BRITISH COLONIES.		UNITED STATES.		Other Foreign Countries.	
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steamers, British.....	4	936	104	.....	.....	4	936	.....	.....	.....	.....
" Foreign.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sailing vessels, British.	106	11421	595	.....	.....	76	5764	10	2099	4	897
" Foreign	2	496	15	16	2661	1	413	1	83	.....	.....
	112	11853	714	16	2661	81	7113	11	2182	4	897

(Copy.)

PORT OF NEW CARLISLE.

RETURN of the number of British and Foreign Steamers and Sailing Vessels entered *Outwards* at this Port, shewing their Tonnage, number of men employed, and to what country cleared, during the year 1859.

	TOTAL.			GREAT BRITAIN.		BRITISH COLONIES.		UNITED STATES.		Other Foreign Countries.	
	No.	Tons.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steamers, British.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" Foreign.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sailing vessels, British..	93	10805	588	17	4316	61	4727	7	679	8	1083
" Foreign.....	1	412	11	1	412	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	94	11217	599	18	4728	61	4727	7	679	8	1083

(Copy.)

PORT OF NEW CARLISLE.

STATEMENT shewing the Coasting Trade, and the Tonnage of the Canadian Vessels, Inwards and Outwards, at this Port, during the year 1859.

INWARDS.				OUTWARDS.			
STEAM.		SAIL.		STEAM.		SAIL.	
* No.	Tons.	* No.	Tons.	* No.	Tons.	* No.	Tons.
19	3516	79	4815	.....	.....	70	4300

* These Columns include the number of Trips made by the various Vessels.

(Copy.)

PORT OF NEW CARLISLE.

STATEMENT of the Number and Tonnage of British and American Vessels entered Inwards and Outwards, shewing the intercourse, (exclusive of Ferryage,) between this Port and the United States, during the year 1859.

INWARDS.						OUTWARDS.					
BRITISH.			AMERICAN.			BRITISH.			AMERICAN.		
Steam.		Sail.		Steam.		Sail.		Steam.		Sail.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
.....		10	1099	.....	.....	1	83	.....	.....	7	679

(Copy.)

PORT OF GASPE.

RETURN of the number of British and Foreign Steamers and Sailing Vessels entered *Inwards* at this Port, shewing their Tonnage, Number of Men employed, and the Countries whence they came, during the year ending 31st December, 1859.

No.	Tons.	TOTAL.			GREAT BRITAIN.		BRITISH COLONIES.		UNITED STATES.		Other Foreign Countries.	
		No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
8	1083	1	237	26	.....	.....	1	237	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	43	4821	335	22	2514	13	838	2	306	11	1163
8	1083	1	70	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	70	.....	.....
Total.....	.....	50	5128	367	22	2514	14	1075	3	376	11	1163

(Copy.)

PORT OF GASPE.

RETURN of the Number of British and Foreign Steamers and Sailing Vessels entered *Outwards* at this Port, shewing their Tonnage, Number of Men employed, and to what Country cleared, during the year 1859.

Tons.	TOTAL.			GREAT BRITAIN.		BRITISH COLONIES.		UNITED STATES.		Other Foreign Countries.	
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
4300	1	237	26	.....	.....	1	237	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	42	4029	273	6	838	9	532	.....	.....	27	2650
.....	1	70	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	70	.....	.....
Total.....	44	4336	305	6	838	10	769	1	70	27	2650

(Copy.)

PORT OF GASPE.

STATEMENT shewing the Coasting Trade and the Tonnage of the Canadian Vessels, Inwards and Outwards, at this Port, during the year 1859.

INWARDS.				OUTWARDS.			
STEAM.		SAIL.		STEAM.		SAIL.	
*No.	Tons.	*No.	Tons.	*No.	Tons.	*No.	Tons.
22	4290	151	7902	23	4524	165	8852

*These Columns include the number of Trips made by the various Vessels.

PORT OF AMHERST—(Magdalen Islands.)

Year.	Exports.	Imports.	Duties.	Year.	Exports.	Imports.	Duties.
	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
1851.....	19564	5684	444	1856.....	82952	34212	1368
1852.....	44384	12984	1212	1857.....	163072	41890	2121
1853.....	68338	12704	1336	1858.....	234583	23704	1809
1854.....	76820	18304	1696	1859.....	266650	54803	3821
1855.....	61288	29600	1492				

Number of Vessels entered at the Port of Amherst.

Year.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Year.	Inwards.	Outwards.
1854.....	104 vessels..	112 vessels..	1857.....	106 vessels..	190 vessels..
1855.....	105 do ..	106 do ..	1858.....	247 do ..	246 do ..
1856.....	131 do ..	163 do ..	1859.....	374 do ..	232 do ..

STATEMENT, shewing the value of imports at the Port of Amherst, (Magdalen Islands) in 1859.

From Nova Scotia,.....	\$ 49,058	Customs Duties, \$3,672
" New Brunswick,.....	255	7.40
" Prince Edward Island,.....	2,024	20.40
" Newfoundland,.....	156	
" Great Britain,.....	1,174	105.57
" The United States,.....	2,051	106.00
" St. Pierre and Miquelon,.....	85	4.00
	\$ 54,803	\$ 3,821.82

The value of the goods imported from Quebec and the coasts amounts to not less than \$12,000.

Number of coasting vessels arrived, 21 ; tonnage, 856.

STATEMENT, shewing the quantity and value of produce exported from the Port of Amherst, (Magdalen Islands,) in 1859.

	Quantity.	Value.	British N. America.	U.S. States.	Foreign Countries.
Fish, dried,	12,429 quintals.	\$ 29,271	\$ 28,569	\$ 702	
" pickled,	101,380 barrels.	215,485	132,753	82,732	
" Oil,	27,971 gallons.	15,490	14,860	630	
Furs and Skins,	5,572 skins.	5,403	5,403		
Cattle,	63	630			630
Animal produce		67	67		
Agricultural produce,		310	310		
		266,656	\$181,982	\$84,084	630

STATEMENT, shewing the number of the Magdalen Islands schooners engaged in the Seal Fishery, &c., &c.

Schooners.	Tons.	Men.	Seals.
24	820	280	6,000

NUMBER of Vessels entered at the Port of Amherst, in 1859.

	Total Number.			From Great Britain.		From British North American Colonies.		From United States.		From St. Pierre, and Miquelon.	
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	305	12408	1702	3	305	293	11580	8	488	1	35
Foreign	69	4736	432	.....	.....	1	65	68	4671	.....	.....
	374	17144	2134	3	305	294	11645	76	5159	1	35

NUMBER of Vessels cleared at the Port of Amherst, in 1859.

	Total Number.			For Great Britain.		For British North American Colonies.		For United States.		For St. Pierre, and Miquelon.	
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	226	9282	1204	.....	.....	212	8513	13	734	1	35
Foreign	66	3916	351	.....	.....	2	191	54	3725	.....	.....
	282	13198	1555	.....	.....	214	8704	67	4459	1	35

For these interesting statements, I am indebted to John J. Fox, Esquire, Collector of Customs at the Port of Amherst.

APPENDIX No. 34.

Mr. WHITCHER'S REPORT.

To the Hon. P. M. Vankoughnet,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.
&c. &c.

SIR,—Your directions of the 17th May last, honored me with the service of inspecting and taking inventories of certain public properties within the territory known as "The King's Posts," preparatory to their resumption by government at the expiry of lease with the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company. Obedient to which I have made a personal and minute inspection of the several premises with the view of ascertaining their actual state. The results of such examination, and other information affecting their delivery and acceptance as between the Company and the Crown, form the subject of various special communications and of a general Report already addressed to the Department.

The same instructions directed me also to concert proceedings with the Superintendent of Fisheries, for Lower Canada, in furtherance of the season's operations under the Fishery Act; and concurrently with the first mentioned duty, in the neighbourhood of the respective localities where the above Posts are situated, to render assistance. The present Report describes the additional service thus performed agreeable to your desire.

I met the Superintendent of Fisheries at Quebec, about the 21st of May.—Reference is requested to a full statement of particulars in connection with such arrangements as I was charged to suggest, also, to subsequent explanatory letters.

We repaired together to the Saguenay, and spent some days in laying off and licensing the stations thereabouts. The application of the petty license system enabled us to make the netting more regular and moderate. At the same time the different occupants fished more successfully than usual.

After Mr. Nettle had returned to Quebec, and in course of business further up the River Saguenay, I succeeded by a simple stratagem in detecting two notorious Salmon spearkers, who have hitherto evaded detection. In default of payment of the fine imposed by the convicting magistrate, the defendants were committed to prison at Quebec.—I here beg to refer to my letter of the 12th of August.

Before leaving the Saguenay I was again forced into the painful duty of prosecuting to conviction another offender named Edward Hovington, for contravening the Fishery Act,

and for persistence in an obdurate and defiant trespass upon limits under license in Tadousac Bay, to Thomas Simard Esq. I had warned and entreated him, both orally and by written notice, to desist. Incited by bad counsel he not only turned a deaf ear to all remonstrances, but set a troublesome example by his behaviour,—carried indeed to the extent of retorting by insolent notes to myself and to the magistrates, even whilst the utmost lenity was shown towards him, in order to afford full opportunity for obedience to avert punitive process. He treated every step with obstinate defiance. During the night previous to the limit of time specified in the magistrates' order, he sailed away in a schooner bound for Quebec. Conceiving it necessary that such a case should not end in triumphant impunity, I procured a warrant and crossed over to River DuLoup in time to overtake the steamer "Saguenay," and thence arranged with the High Constable at Quebec for Hovington's capture on arrival in port. He afterwards fell into custody, and escaped imprisonment by paying the amount of fine and costs.

I recrossed the Saguenay in a pilot-boat during a violent storm, and next morning left for the North coast below.

Being anxious to deliver the despatches sent to my care for the Superintendent of Fisheries and Captain Fortin, I pushed onwards to reach the river Moisie. Detained by contrary winds, and in one instance driven back three times by weather so tempestuous that even larger boats than mine could not live through it, I at length made Seven Islands Bay, on the 27th of June. The breeze calmed and the rain ceased at nightfall. To proceed further by water was impossible. Hearing that *La Canadienne* was expected to sail next day from the Moisie, I determined to overtake her before day-light. With this view I started afoot along the beach, and through eighteen miles of bad walking gained the Moisie at an opportune moment. Our business thereat concluded, Captain Fortin went down to the Labrador coast, Mr. Nettle crossed over to the South Shore, and I returned homewards. This splendid river, when cleared of the innumerable nets which again as last season thronged its course, was fairly alive with Salmon arrived at its upper waters during a short period after such clearance.

Between the Godbout and Moisie Mr. Nettle had placed under season license the principal stations for Salmon and Sea Trout fishing. In repassing the same ground, however, I took occasion to explore the intermediate streams.

The River Marguerite discharges a large volume of water, and in the tidal portion affords tolerable Salmon fishery. The lower course is much broken by abrupt falls, and the fish not ascending the stream to the more highly aerated waters of its sources, are ill-shapen and coarse, and but of middling size. The spawning places swarmed with Salmon fry. A trifling outlay in the construction of stone basin steps would overcome the main obstacles to the ascent of Salmon along this stream.

The river Pentecost is smaller, and has a high fall quite inaccessible to fish, some three miles from its mouth, where the bottom is soft and muddy and the shores clayey,—which peculiarities probably deter Salmon from entering it. In the entrance and for upwards of a league along the St. Lawrence bank westwards, there is excellent Sea-Trout fishing for nets. The Trout reach 4lbs weight, and are well flavored. They take the artificial fly and bait with great avidity at the ebb and flow of the tide, particularly inside the embouchure.

Stress of weather compelled me to advance from here to Trinity Bay, without exploring the River Calumet, where I am informed there once was an abundance of Salmon.

There are several fair salmon, and many good sea-trout fishing stands on this part of the coast.

The Trinity River I consider a valuable stream. Of the estuary portion I shall not now speak, having described its fishings, &c., in the previous season's report. An almost uninterrupted passage for near 40 miles admits Salmon into a part of this stream where it widens and is divided by small islands. Here seems to be the breeding ground; and it is so distant from any place where fish taken could be disposed of, and the labor of navigating it with a canoe, even lightly laden, is so formidable that Salmon may again multiply there in primeval quiet. Hitherto the estuary has been over-netted, and the river barred across by gill-nets. Hence the decline of the fishery. Now, however, fair play is insured, and the natural consequence will be a rapid restoration of the river to its pristine celebrity.

Some three leagues west are the forks of the famous Godbout. Here, too, the spawning beds in the North-east branch are admirably sheltered and spacious. The North-west

From
St. Pierre,
and Miquelon.

No.	Tons.
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For St. Pierre,
and Miquelon.

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arm communicates through a long deep lake with one of the feeders of the Manicouagan River. The Godbout Salmon breed also in a North tributary of this lake; and from appearance it might be inferred that they lie also within the main outlet. Were spearing everywhere prohibited, and reasonable netting alone allowed, there cannot be a doubt that the supply of Salmon from this river would in a few years become almost inexhaustible. Indeed, when we recollect the dire havoc and riotous abuse of fishing which this beautiful stream has already suffered, nothing save a knowledge of its extensive and fine breeding places could enable us to account for the present existence of any remnant of former abundance. There is encouragement in the hope that protective measures strictly enforced, will fast multiply and improve the run of Salmon resorting to this rich river.

Between the Godbout and English Bay the only Salmon fishery stations worthy of note are those at the neighboring rivers, Betsie and Mistassini, both of which I placed under license. The last named stream when earliest fished for the Hudson's Bay Company, yielded 1600 to 2000 Salmon. The yield now is but 100. And if the mode of fishing it for years back has been similar to that attempted last season, it is only surprising that the destruction is not now more complete. Two men (Henri St. Pierre and Benjamin Damour, both of Trois Pistoles) occupying the station, had, on my return, drawn their net far above tide-waters, so as to close up the river entirely. It was so strongly set that I was obliged to cut away different pieces in order to free and haul it ashore. The extreme poverty of these men, and their contrite pleadings, induced me to forbear from confiscating the material and subjecting them to the penalties to which they have rendered themselves liable. Complaint is, nevertheless, entered, and the matter stands reported with a recommendation that you will be pleased to approve of its being held in abeyance, depending upon the lawful conduct of the same fishermen for the future.

After examining English Bay, and ascertaining that there are promising sites for fishing locations, I advanced to Bersimis. The water has continued unusually high in this river, so that during the months of June and July the Indians were unable to spear many fish. In the autumn (after 1st of August) I have reason to believe great numbers of Salmon were speared and exchanged for provisions with the Hudson's Bay Company.

I am constrained to observe, in relation to this point, as well as with respect to kindred occurrences elsewhere—that so long as Indians are encouraged by purchase or barter, and by the imprudent advice of persons whose position and character ought to place them in harmony with the laws of the land, to infringe enactments designed to preserve fish or game, nothing but evil can ensue. Manifold injuries occur: the Fishery Officers are put to greater trouble and expense, and the offending Indians incur punishments which seem almost cruel to apply in face of the advice given to them by those in whose word they are accustomed to place implicit reliance. The tribes are made more vindictive and insensible to reason, when thus told that the Law has no right to restrain them, and that they can without wrong defy and resist any interference with their natural freedom to kill, barter or sell, without let or hindrance, for such is their birthright. Possibly it may be sometimes overlooked that the Statutes attach a serious liability to persons "aiding and abetting" the commission of offences punishable by statutory law.

The 17th of July, I reached Bay Laval. There was but one fishing station (Batture aux Gibiers) occupied between there and Goose Point eastwards. Upon inspection I found the Laval River completely barred by the nets of Mr. Peter Macdonald. The apparatus was ingeniously laid, and its existence could be detected only by groping about the bed of the channel. It being Sunday, no further action was then taken. Without alarming the owner, I concluded to profit by the land breeze and get home that evening, intending to return again from Tadoussac, 74 miles. The following Tuesday night I rowed quietly into Laval Bay, and at daybreak took possession of all the nets &c., so illegally set, serving the occupant (at Sault au Cochon) in due form. He objected to the entire procedure, refused to meet the fine, and resisted the consequent arrest; ultimately, however, entering into recognizances to appear in Quebec at a given date and settle the matter. Meanwhile I removed the nets, and have retained them in safe keeping. Attention is called to the letter of 20th September, respecting this case.

In August I explored the Laval River to the Grand Chute, above Lake Laval, and found it quite equal to our expectations as a Salmon stream. Unfortunately, a party of Mic Mac Indians (six in number) went up to the Lake, and with their négogs nearly emptied the

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pools of the few fish that had gone up after the removal of Macdonald's nets. Myself and canoe-man could offer but feeble hindrance to the progress of this party, and so contented us with making known the terms of the Law, and warning them of the risk they ran. We, however, the same afternoon, headed them off by traversing the four miles portage (over the mountain) with our canoe, in such a way as to catch them that night in the act, and obtained ocular proof on which thereafter to found a prosecution. The Superintendent of Fisheries is in possession of these facts. Seeing our determination to watch and follow them, they turned back from the Lake, and thus spared the upper waters of the river from like spoliation.

The Rivers Sault de Mouton, St. Margaret (Saguenay,) and others above mentioned, were visited in a similar manner.

Occasional visitations to these secluded streams, heretofore locked up in silence and secesy, where lawless men could pursue without dread of observation their own selfish will, are calculated to deter poachers from spearing and netting expeditions. The facility with which the passage up one stream and down another can be effected, and the difficulty of fixing upon any individual the charge for acts 'tis morally certain have been committed, must otherwise leave the law a dead letter as regards depredations of the kind.

The bounds of the leased fisheries in the rivers Laval, Sault au Cochon, Escoumain, Little Bergeronno, St. Margaret, Little Saguenay, and St. Johns, have been measured off and defined in the field, as per special report to the Superintendent.

Those under lease to D. E. Price, Esq., of River du Moulin, have not been fished by him this year.

I have sounded and examined numerous bays along the coast to ascertain their adaptability for the planting of Oysters; a description of each of which has been forwarded to Captain Fortin.

As the official notice requiring Squatters to notify the Department of their claims could otherwise reach many of the settlers upon the North coast, I took note of their claims and circumstances for report.

Several cases referred to me for inquiry have been specially attended to.

In the nomination of Fishery Overseers on the North Shore, it has been endeavored to secure efficient local guardians, and, wheresoever circumstances would admit of so doing, to confer the situation on persons who by the operation of the leasing system may have necessarily been deprived of fishery stations.

Frequent and continued disturbance and damage to the river fishings takes place through the very irregular and careless anchorage of vessels and boats engaged in the cod-fishery. And until some definite control is exercised to compel them to anchor at proper spots, it will be quite impossible to prevent offal from being thrown into the channels, thereby blocking them up, and also injuring the Salmon Fishery. Either Captain Fortin or the Superintendent should be empowered to mark by buoys the anchorage limits, and to place vessels and boats at anchor so near to the banks at high water that there can be no plea of long distance to excuse the crews and fishermen from burying the offals ashore.

I cannot close this report without touching upon the subject of spearing by Indians.

The practice of capturing Salmon by torch-light and spears is justly held to be most pernicious. Employed, as it almost invariably is, at a time when the waters of each river are lowest and clearest,—whilst the Salmon are baulked at the base of steep falls, awaiting the next freshet, and congregate during sultry nights near the mouths of little rivulets, emptying into the main stream, or loiter about the tails of pools,—spear-fishing involves excessive slaughter. Sometimes in the course of *one night* as many Salmon will be thus killed and maimed as an ordinary net-fishery along the coast, or in the estuaries, can capture throughout the regular fishing season. Practised during autumn and periods of reproduction, as is still more frequently the case, it becomes indescribably bad,—'tis the crowning act of extirpation. The luckless fish are then killed at a stage which makes the bare feature of destroyal in the highest degree deplorable. They have won their devious way from the luscious pastures of old ocean, through labyrinths of nets and a multitude of watery perils. Urged onwards by strong instincts, they have surmounted incredible difficulties, and achieved marvels of adventurous travel. They are now arrived at nature's free hospitals of piscary lying-in. The water-way by which they came is in many parts impassably shoal, and no more heavy breeders can reach the same high grounds, or supply their places, for

that year at least. And, after all, lean from exertion and thin food ; dark and slimy from the physical drain and unhealthy action incident to the procreative state, perhaps sluggish and heavy with thousands of ova, or busied in the exhaustive labor and anxious cares of depositing their prolific burden,—they are ruthlessly slain by the spear. With every dead or wounded fish, there perish in embryo from ten to thirty, forty, fifty—even as high as sixty, thousands. Spawners and melters both suffer. Is it, then, possible to exaggerate the ruinous consequences of such improvidence ?

There are also other features in this practice contributing to the waste and injustice which it entails. The Salmon so taken by spear are, comparatively speaking, worthless as a marketable commodity. But, being easily taken, the captors willingly dispose of them at miserable prices, and in barter for the cheapest kinds of goods ; for rusty pork and moulded biscuits. The wrong to the public, of suffering the richest and finest fish in Canadian waters—the precious capital of our rivers,—to be thus traded in when almost valueless, and under circumstances that admit only of unscrupulous fishermen and dishonest traders deriving some mean benefits thereby, is obvious. These dealers adroitly scarify the ugly portions, disguise their ill-conditioned bargain by dry-salting, or hot pickle, and concealing the unwholesome fish at the bottom of the tubs, or dispersing them among other sound pieces, thus pawn them off upon the public. Costing little at prime, the sale is a ready one below average market price. If consumers were but once to see a few specimens of unseasonable Salmon struck by the spear, they would remember the loathsome sight, and rather than venture the chances of again eating such deleterious food, would eschew Salmon altogether.

If the river fisheries become exhausted through this custom, the whole public suffers, because these streams are the nurseries which breed supplies and furnish wealth to the 'longshore and estuary fishings. Besides, to tolerate it, must always expose Crown lessees to the risk of having their limits suddenly deteriorated by the bold encroachments of spearers. To punish them, even, cannot restore the damage. Years, indeed, must elapse ere the pirated rivers can recover from the effects of successive or casual devastations. And while there remains a loophole for escape, as between the Indians and abetting traders, active temptations on either sides will drive them to calculate their mutual chances of evading the law.

The qualified exemption of Indians under the Fishery Regulations arose, I feel assured, from motives humane and considerate. Those considerations doubtless were influenced by arguments in support of such exception drawn from the apparent necessities of Indian life. Experience dissipates this cause of sympathy. It proves that the Montagnais, Micmac, Naskapis, and Metifs, seldom spear Salmon in any considerable quantities for present subsistence ; and to smoke, or dry, or pickle them for winter use, never. They go to the salting vats of the highest trader,—pork, tea, sugar, tobacco, and sometimes spirits, principally returning to the wigwam in exchange. I, of course, speak of the Indians whilst near the St. Lawrence, whether from the interior or residing by turns near the sea-board. It is quite a mistaken notion that they kill and cure Salmon for provisioning the inland hunt.

The experienced Missionary, Père Arnaud, in his evidence to the Indian Commissioners, says, "These Indians care for nothing but hunting and fishing." Indeed, I think that, as regards several of them, the native love of excitement in the chase has somewhat to do with their pertinacious pursuit of Salmon by spears and flambeaux. 'Tis a passion among some of the bands. And, I must admit, the habit has peculiar fascinations, and to many it is strangely exciting. Nothing can exceed the wild excitement with which these men pursue it. The sombre night scene of the forest river, seems to delight them. The elder man occupies the stern of the canoe, while the younger takes "the post of honor" forward. The murmur of water-falls and rapids, drown those exclamatory *Ughs!* and the frequent splash that would else disturb the pervading stillness. With steady stealthy speed, the light birchen boat enters the rapid, and cutting through its white waters glides smoothly over the fall and into the "tail" of the pool above, or across the quiet "reach." The blazing torch, stuck in a cleft stake and leaning over the bow of the canoe, glares with dazzling lightness. The flame and shadow, swayed by ripples, conceal the spearers' forms and bewilder the doomed Salmon. Like moths they sidle towards the fatal light ; their silvery sides and amber colored eyeballs glisten through the rippled water. The dilated eyes, the expanding nostrils and compressed lips of the swarthy canoeemen, fitly picture their eager and excited mood. A quick deadly aim, a sudden swirl, and those momentary con-

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vulsive wriggles, tell the rest. The aquatic captive, with blood and spawn, and slime and entrails, besmear the inside of the canoe. Often the quarry is transfixed with wonderful precision, and instantly killed,—the spinal maraow being pierced by the barb, and the staong springy tines of the spear paralysing in their sharp pinch the whole muscular system, the fine rays spread in a feeble quiver, and the once powerful fish dies literally without a struggle. During a single night from fifty to two hundred Salmon may be thus slaughtered, and half as many more lacerated in their efforts to escape; the pools at such seasons being too shallow to afford certain safety in retreat. The bed of coarse boughs—the chill and hungry awaking at sunrise—the mixture of peril and fagging which form the return down a swift stream, broken by falls and rocks, and rapids, with here and there a tedious portage, over which several hundred pounds of fish, and bruised and blistered canoes must be transported,—all these exertions appear but natural to Indians, and not worthy of comparison as against the fruits of so much toil, converted at last into six, eight or ten dollars worth of provisions and store goods, or perchance a demi-john of home made rum. Speared Salmon are sold to traders at their own price, as the deteriorating mode of capture so much depreciates the fish. The illegality of the purchase or exchange, also, often is pleaded as a risk for which a further proportional deduction in the value of barter must be made.

That the Indians must suffer starvation by being deprived of the “native liberty” to ruin our Salmon Fisheries, is a very flimsy apology on the part of those who still desire to perpetuate so flagrant an abuse. With the exception of some families of Naskapis, who have imprudently left their upland hunting grounds, and wandered towards the rocky coasts, where sickness soon debilitates and cuts off whole encampments, the Lower St. Lawrence Indians do not endure privations similar to many of the tribes in Western Canada. This comparative immunity is certainly due in great measure to the paternal solicitude exercised by the exemplary missionaries of the Roman Catholic Church. Almost total abstinence from “fire water,” is not the least of a beneficent improvement resulting from these self-denying missions. Were there not another Salmon to be caught between Quebec and Labrador, the extinction could not occasion to Indians one tithe of the misery depicted by persons whose interest or prejudice it is to excite a sympathetic feeling favorable to the continuance of facilities for spearing. I make no mere vague assertion—’tis a deduction from practical observations and inquiry. The Indians themselves know this; and it makes them all the more reckless and disregardful of the future in their ravages. Trout are plentiful all along the coast, and the inner Lakes swarm with them. Every bay and bank teems with Codfish. The rod, and line, and bait will catch both in hundreds. Hooks and lines are cheap as spearing implements. Seals are plenty everywhere. The product of one seal will buy the fishing gear of a family for the entire year. But, ’tis argued, they need pork and flour, tea and sugar, guns and ammunition, which can be bought with Salmon carcasses. Yes, and all of these articles can be better had in exchange for Trout, Cod, Seal-oil, skins and furs. Birch canoes, baskets, and other manufactures, find rapid sale. Canoes bring from eight to twenty-four dollars a-piece, in cash. Necessity, therefore, is simply an excuse, equally deceptive and unfounded. ’Tis the habitual indolence of most of these Indians which lies at the root of the matter. It ties them down to frequented spots, where inducements held out by cunning traders, (whether on land or afloat) are irresistible.

Is there, then, sufficient reason why their inveterate habits should be humoured at the cost of extirpating the supply of Salmon?

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. WHITCHER,

J. P.

Quebec, 31st December, 1859.

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I should again press upon you, Sir, the necessity for the acquisition by the Government of the Indian Reserves laid out on the Batchewana and Goulais Bays, and the Garden and Thessalon Rivers, but that I am aware that subject has already received the attention of the Indian Department. In my report to the Honorable Commissioner of 1855, I dwelt at length upon the resources of this country as to its agricultural capabilities, its timber and mineral wealth, and its fisheries, and it will therefore be needless again to touch upon the subject. I shall therefore confine myself to the mode of settling the country, upon which I beg respectfully to offer a few remarks.

I am of opinion that settlement should be pushed from the westward to the eastward; or in other words that the tract of country in rear of the village of St. Mary, bounded on the West by the Batchewana bay, and on the eastward by the Mississauga River, should first be surveyed and offered for settlement.

First, There is a larger block of contiguous arable land between these two points, than in any other portion of the country I have examined; and this block is easy of access from the shores of Lake Superior and Huron, and also from the River St. Mary; and secondly, there is already a village at the Sault, and a settlement at the Bruce Mines, which form naturally much for settlement, and posts upon which settlers can fall back in case of need.

I cannot conclude this report without referring to the facilities now offered to explorers for a thorough examination of the country from Lake Nipissing to Lake Superior by the work just completed.

In a country so extensive, and provided with no "harbor of refuge," if I may use the term, mineral and other wealth may have lain for centuries undeveloped, as no single individual or company, unless possessed of extensive capital, could properly or advantageously explore the same. I need only allude to the great cost of supplying an exploring party with provisions to prove this; but further, to explore a wilderness so vast, not only means but experienced practical surveyors and woodsmen, who, well versed in the use of instruments, could lead a party out of the woods as well as into them.

This difficulty is now obviated, as by the Base and Range lines parties wishing to explore the country for mineral or other wealth, can readily do so, means of egress to the coast being opened at every 18 miles, rough and rugged though some may be, at which distances on the Base line blazed lines are surveyed to the coast of the lake. The base has also posts at every six miles duly marked, and a tree at every mile marked in chalk to note the distance.

In prosecuting my survey and exploration of this country, I had occasionally an opportunity, through an interpreter, of conversing with the Indians from the interior. By the Chief of one band I was informed that near the foot of the height of land, in the vicinity of Green Lake at the head waters of the River Mississauga, a valley of considerable width, unbroken by rock ridges or Lakes, stretches eastward and westward for a great distance.

I have generally found the Indians truthful in the reports they have given me of the country, and have no doubt that in this instance they do not exaggerate. Looking to the opening up of the North West Territory, and to the acquisition, by Canada, of the Red River and Sas-kat-che-wan valleys, a subject which at present agitates the public, I have deemed it my duty to mention this circumstance to you: as, if the information afforded me be correct, a great highway as a means of communication between Canada proper and the Red River might by it be effected; which in a national point of view would be most desirable, if they are to form one country.

In conclusion, Sir, I beg to return my thanks to the several gentlemen you had appointed as my assistants in this service, which has been one attended with

considerable mental and bodily labour, and at times with much anxiety and deprivation, for the readiness and promptitude they ever evinced in carrying out my instructions, and would respectfully recommend them to your favorable notice, as gentlemen possessing both great professional ability, and untiring zeal and energy in the prosecution of their duty.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

(Signed,)

ALBERT PELLEW SALTER,
Provincial Surveyor.

Chatham, January 20th, 1858.

APPENDIX U.

REPORT ENDING SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1857.

(Copy.)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FISHERIES,
Quebec, September 24th, 1857.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that, on receiving the necessary instructions from you I hastened from Toronto to Quebec, and deeming it of paramount importance that the artificial salmon-passes (as required by law) should be placed on the various mill-dams within the Province, I directed my attention in the first instance to the south shore of the St. Lawrence.

Commencing from Point Levi, I proceeded to visit mills situate on the various tributaries flowing into the St. Lawrence.

The first river of any importance is the Du Sud, on which are the saw-mills of William Patton, Esq., and also those of the Messrs. Price. Having informed them of the provisions of the "Fishery Act," and having given the necessary instructions for the construction of the passes, I obtained the cordial co-operation of the proprietors, and I have to state that they were placed on the dam soon after my visit, and we may hope that the Du Sud will once more be stocked with fish, inasmuch as Mr. Patton had seen salmon attempting the leap of the dam previous to the boxes having been placed thereon.

From the Du Sud at St. Thomas, I drove to the Des Trois Saumons, at St. Jean Port Joli, and called on the proprietor, Mr. De Gaspé (the Seigneur), gave him a plan of the migration passes, also a copy of the Act; he promised that the matter should be attended to. This river is well adapted for the salmon, and without being obstructed by falls, leads into a lake in which are large quantities of trout. At the village of St. Ann's there is a mill belonging to Mr. Dionne,—the stream being of minor importance, I did not stop to direct the fishways to be put up. I have since heard that salmon have been taken at that place, and consequently the boxes will have to be placed on the dam.

I had to proceed to the back settlements on the River Ouelle, on which are a grist-mill and saw-mill. On this river the first salmon were taken this season. With the persons in charge of the mills I left the proper instructions, also a copy of the Fishery Act, and a plan of the migration passes, desiring them to give the papers to the owner of the mills, Mr. Casgrain. This river is admirably adapted for salmon, and vast quantities could be taken with only moderate care. Salmon had been taken at the dam (fourteen miles from the mouth of the river) a few days before my arrival.

From the wharf at River Ouelle I crossed to Mal Baie in the steamer "Saguenay," as I wished to hire a schooner to proceed to the lower rivers on the north shore. Failing to do so, and not having any more copies of the Fishery Act, I returned to Quebec. I am happy to say that since the destruction of the dam on the Murray River the salmon are returning to their old haunts. The stream is full of salmon fry, and it only requires that due care should be taken to prevent the destructive and illegal practice of torchlight fishing, and this river will soon be restored to its original excellence.

On my arrival at Quebec I made application for certain copies of the Fishery Act, which having been sent me, I immediately circulated the same widely in every parish bordering on the St. Lawrence, together with printed placards containing clauses relative to the salmon.

While at Quebec, I visited the various rivers in the locality. Complaints were laid before me by Joseph Boswell, Esq., charging certain persons with having contravened the statute by spearing salmon in the River Jacques Cartier by torchlight. Mr. Solicitor General Ross undertook the prosecution, and having caused one of the parties to be summoned (Elere Dubuc) at the Court House at Quebec, at the appointed time he appeared, pleaded guilty to the offence, and as he promised not to offend again by any breach of the law, he was fined in the lesser penalty—two pounds and costs—which fine (by the advice of Mr. Solicitor General Ross) I take the liberty to recommend to be remitted, the complainant having also consented to remit his portion of the fine, one half, which the law entitles him to receive.

The Jacques Cartier has this year been tolerably well supplied with salmon, though of very small size (grilse), about six hundred were taken up to the 1st of August, on which day I caused the net which has been set in the river to be removed. This net is a perfect barrier to the passage of the salmon, for though not occupying one-third of the river, it stretches across the only place where it is possible for the fish to pass.

I regret to say that since my return from the lower rivers I have been told that certain parties have continued their nightly depredations—at the same time there are parties who visit the river and fish it constantly,—and who know the names of the persons who spear, yet they will not lay the information before "any Magistrate" as the law directs.

The only means of preventing these nightly depredations I shall have the honor to suggest at the close of this report.

At St. Catherine's there are mills owned by Mr. Duchesnay. The small river on which they are built flows into the Jacques Cartier from Lake St. Joseph. I am of opinion that salmon will be enabled to ascend the Jacques Cartier, and from thence into Lake St. Joseph. I cannot speak positively, as I have to follow up the river from the outlet to the lake. The mills at St. Catherine's only require a small slide, or chute; and I hope to be able to prove that my conjecture is correct.

Having obtained your sanction to my engaging a schooner for my mission to the north shore of the St. Lawrence, I hired the schooner "Providence," (Desjardins, master,) with the understanding that she was to leave within two days, and that, on her arrival at the Tadousac, she was to be under pay. On the following day I left Quebec in the steamer, being desirous of visiting the tributaries of the Saguenay ere the arrival of the schooner in the Tadousac.

RIVER SAGUENAY.

The principal tributaries of this noble river are on the west shore: the Little Saguenay, the St. John, the Ha Ha, and the à Mars. On the two former rivers Mr. Price had caused the artificial ways to be placed. The heavy freshets had

prevented them from being placed on the other rivers. At Grand Bay I saw Mr. Blair (Mr. Price's agent); he told me he would not fail to have the salmon-passes up directly the water subsided. On the east shore, the principal fishery is the Tadousac and the river Marguerite; on either side of the Saguenay there are other salmon fisheries in the various inlets and bays. More salmon have been taken in the Saguenay this year than for many years past.

The Tadousac (Hudson Bay Company's post) has this season yielded about 1,500 fish. In the St. Margaret large quantities have been taken: I regret to say that Indians and others have constantly been spearing in this river and the St. John (on the opposite side).

Mr. Radford (Mr. Price's agent) informed me that four Indians brought down from the river Marguerite 250 speared fish, and that others were every night killing them by the same means—torchlight fishing. He is of opinion that there is no other way of saving the salmon but by leasing the rivers.

Saturday, August 15th.

The schooner having arrived at the Tadousac, I thought it best not to detain her, and at noon we got under weigh, and with a fair wind proceeded down the St. Lawrence towards the River Escoumains, where we arrived about 6, P. M.; distance, 27 miles from the Tadousac.

Between these two points lie the Grand and Petit Bergeronne, Bon Desir, and Ance à la Cave, the two former famed for the abundance of sea-trout, and where salmon are also taken, as also at the latter places. Immediately on my arrival at the Escoumains, I went on shore to examine the mill-dam of the Messrs. Tetu. I had previously sent the proprietors a copy of the Fishery Act, together with a sketch of the necessary passes. I found that the heavy freshets had prevented their being placed on the dam. The water was then in good condition, and they promised to begin them on the Monday following. I am happy to state that having put in at the Escoumains on my return upwards, I found that the salmon-passes had been built with the utmost care, and in a most substantial manner; and I was much gratified to hear that salmon had been seen ascending the passage: so we may well hope that the far-famed Escoumains will once more take its place as one of the best rivers for salmon on the north shore of the St. Lawrence.

I cannot help mentioning the high state of perfection to which Mr. Felix Tetu has brought the farm that he is cultivating on the Escoumains. The crops consist of wheat, barley, oats, peas, and potatoes, which are as fine as any I have ever seen in any part of Upper Canada, or the old country. We remained at Escoumains on Sunday, and on the Monday proceeded on our downward course towards Portneuf, distant 26 miles, where we arrived at 6, P. M.

Between Escoumains and Portneuf are the following places where salmon are taken: Little Escoumains, Petit Romain, Sault au Mouton, Mille Vaches, and Point au Boisvert.

PORTNEUF RIVER.

At about three miles from the mouth of this river are the saw-mills belonging to James Gibb, Esq. I regret to say that the dam is without the necessary salmon-passes, the agent (Mr. Peverly) not being aware that the law required their being put up (though I had sent a copy of the Act, but which had not been received) before the approach of another season. He has promised that they shall be built in a solid and perfect manner. There had been a breach in the dam during this present summer, and I am in hopes that salmon have made their way over, and ascended the river, as large quantities of sea-trout have been killed this year

above the falls. From the dam upwards there is a fine sheet of water, five miles in length, at the head of which is a splendid bay of about three miles in circumference, with a fine gravelly bottom, admirably adapted for spawning ground.

The river enters the bay from a narrow gorge or ravine about a mile in length, and in some places not twenty feet wide. We have now arrived at the Grand Falls,—a sublime sight,—and over which I think no salmon could pass. The Portneuf was formerly a most excellent salmon river, and when the migration passes are erected, will again become of great value. Contrary winds detained us at Portneuf three days, when we again got under weigh, and proceeded downwards towards the

RIVER BETSIAMITE (OR, BERSIMIS).

Between these two rivers we find the following excellent salmon fishery stations: Sault au Cochon, Baie Laval (large quantities of fish are taken here), River Blanche, River and Point Columbar, and Isle Jeremie.

At Sault au Cochon there is a mill-dam, but no boxes have been placed there. It will be only necessary for me to write to Mr. Price, and I am sure from the great interest he has taken in the salmon fishery question he will cause them to be placed there, as he has on the other dams of which he is the proprietor.

The River Betsiamite (or, Bersimis) is one of the largest tributaries of the St. Lawrence, and on account of the strength of the current no nets have at any time been placed thereon. This river, with systematic fishing, would be of great value. The salmon from this river are the largest in the St. Lawrence, seldom under twenty pounds, and ranging from thirty-five to forty pounds, and even higher. Within the last two years the destructive practice of spearing has been carried on by the Indians—principally by the tribe of the Micmac, who, having destroyed the salmon fisheries on the Ristigouche and other rivers on the south shore, are now making their advances for the same purpose on the north shore. My arrival at the Bersimis was most opportune, as above one hundred Indians (besides women and children) were assembled here at "mission," consequently I had a good opportunity of explaining to them the provisions of the Act relative to spearing.

With the tribe of Mountaineers I had but little difficulty, but the Micmacs were very violently disposed. Previously to my arrival they had been spearing every night, and had killed between four and five hundred salmon. They were preparing to go off on another excursion, when I called them together, and told them that on no consideration would I allow them to go up the river spearing. Some of them were quite savage, and I found out that they were intoxicated, having obtained the liquor from a schooner that had arrived from the south shore. (To the credit of the Hudson's Bay Company I would mention, that in all their posts no spirituous liquor is permitted to be sold to the Indians; and owing to the indefatigable exertions of the Indian missionary, the good Père Arnaud, not one of the Mountaineer tribe will touch any kind of spirituous liquor; the other tribes obtain the spirit from the vicious trader, who would first intoxicate and then cheat the poor Indian,—thus the trader not only evades the license law, but does incalculable injury to the poor native savage.) The day after they became more pacified, and came to ask my permission to let their party (Micmacs) go and spear fish for their own use. I told them that even if I could permit them I would not, and pointing to the schooner I said, they had obtained spirit from the vessel, and that I knew that it was not to eat that they wanted to get salmon, but that they might sell what they could kill to the men on board the schooner. They went away saying "that they would get their people to write petition to let Indian spear fish."

The next day the Micmacs left for Isle Verte.

The only mode to prevent spearing is to punish with heavy fine, or imprisonment, (and with the forfeiture of the vessel that may contain the fish,) any person in whose possession any speared salmon may be found. Père Arnaud, the Indian missionary, who has journeyed from the Labrador upwards, and who has seen the destruction that is being brought upon the salmon fisheries, states, that vessels of all descriptions, and from various places, are fishing in every bay and river along the shore, and that they are both netting and spearing: that there were not less than two hundred nets set in the River Moisie, and that unless some stringent measures are taken directly to prevent such wholesale destruction, there will be few salmon in the River St. Lawrence in a few years; that they fish in opposition to the Hudson's Bay Company. Père Arnaud coincides with me in opinion, that the only way to preserve the salmon fisheries is to lease the whole shore, both rivers and bays. Mr. Smith, the Hudson's Bay Company's officer at this post, says, that there have been few fish (comparatively speaking) speared in the Bersimis this year, compared with the havoc perpetrated in the river last year.

The Mountaineers were much pleased at my arrival, as it hastened the departure of the Micmacs, who are no favorites with the tribes of Indians on the north shore.

I think it a matter of congratulation that this fine river has been partially saved from that destructive weapon, the *negog*, that not only kills but wounds innumerable quantities of fish. It would be well were power given to destroy them wheresoever found, and indeed all parties who may have them in their possession should be fined.

Mr. Smith and Père Arnaud are of opinion that large quantities of fish will spawn in the Bersimis this season.

There is another cause of complaint that I have been requested to bring under the notice of the Government: the utter loss and destruction of the wild fowl. The missionary tells me that there were not less than thirty vessels at the different islands loading with wild fowl eggs; that they break and destroy the eggs that are being hatched, so that the birds may lay more, and that every good egg that they can find is taken away, and that thousands are destroyed.

I think it would be well to prevent such destruction by making the taking of wild fowl eggs from any place within the Province of Canada illegal, and punishable with fine or imprisonment, for such practice is nothing but wanton destruction of the wild fowl.

PAPINACHOIS.

I visited this river on which a mill-dam is built. The mill was not being worked. The fishways had not been placed on the mill-dam. I wrote to the proprietor on the subject; and the boxes will be placed on the dam early in the spring, or should the mill not be worked again, the dam will be destroyed. This was a very excellent salmon river previous to the dam being built, since which time the fish have been unable to ascend the river, and they are only now taken below, and not in any very great numbers.

Proceeding downwards we arrived at the Goodbout River, (Hudson's Bay station.) This river is famed for its salmon fisheries, though this year only 1,100 fish have been taken by the Hudson's Bay Company's fisherman in charge of the post, and contrary to law he has barred the whole river with his nets. Being desirous of seeing the upper pools of this river, I proceeded by canoe and portage a considerable distance up. On my arrival at the spawning-beds I was mortified to find a seine spread on the rocks and on the bushes to dry; so not content with barring the river below, they had even taken the few that had escaped to the breeding pools.

Surely it cannot be with the knowledge of the authorities of the Hudson's Bay Company that such vile practices are being carried on.

A week previous to my arrival an American schooner arrived at Goodbout for the purpose of seining mackerel. The first haul they took 150 barrels; the second, 200 barrels; and the third they enclosed and secured no less than 600 barrels. A large quantity was destroyed, as they had not sufficient salt to cure them. Some Canadian fishermen who assisted them secured a few barrels; but quantities were strewn along the bottom of the Bay, having been drowned by the seine.

I would beg to state that, unless immediate steps are taken to define the boundaries of the river the whole shore will swarm with American vessels in the ensuing year.

I endeavoured to impress upon our people the urgent necessity of their being "up and doing," pointing to the fact that the Americans had gone off with about a thousand barrels of fish worth at least £2000, while year after year they had seen the fish swarming on the shore, and had not energy enough to capture them. Indeed, I heard an old resident say, that they used to "pelt them with stones."

I believe it will be a lesson to them, and that before long they will show some energy in their calling. They pleaded that they were too poor to purchase such vessels and apparatus as the Americans possessed, and that the latter had large bounties given them, which I could not gainsay.

The Americans fish in companies; each man has a personal interest in the pursuit; the profits are divided, consequently their whole energy is brought into play.

The same system should be adopted by our own people; fishing societies should be formed, each man should have a personal interest in the matter; and I venture to affirm that were a hundred schooners to leave the port of Quebec the ensuing spring, they would find a rich harvest in the Gulf and River of St. Lawrence.

I am very sanguine that by leasing the whole of the salmon fisheries, the Government will be enabled to aid all such fishing societies as may be formed, and that such societies may adopt such a systematic mode of fishing that will be creditable to the Canadian character, and at the same time abolish the present destructive stake-net fisheries that every year destroy millions of the spawn of the young fish.

The cod fishery commences at Bay St. Nicholas (sometimes they are taken as high up as Escoumains, and formerly at the Saguenay), and continues downwards. It is a mine of wealth; as fast as the line is down the fish are taken. There were ten or twelve schooners at Goodbout, cod fishing. They were from the Saguenay, Mal Baie, Rimouski, &c.

As an evidence of the quantity of cod that may be taken, the following will suffice:—

We determined to try the seine for cod-fish in Goodbout Bay; at half-past six we threw the net, and at half-past seven we drew to shore and found we had secured 46 barrels of cod, besides some few herrings, and a large quantity of flounders.

The fishery stations for salmon between the Bersimis and Goodbout are: Papinachois Point and River Outarde, Maniconagan, English Bay River, Mistassinic, River au Bic Scie, and Bay St. Nicholas.

BAY OF SEVEN ISLANDS.

We visited this place to see what fisheries were being carried on. On the mainland we found the establishment of Mr. Clarence Hamilton (from Gaspé); he

employed about 40 men, and had taken at this date (27th August), about 2000 quintals of cod fish, and 100 barrels of mackerel.

The firm of Messrs. Robin had also an establishment here. They had taken nearly as many fish. A fine brig belonging to the Messrs. Robin was loading cod-fish in the bay. The Americans had also entered the bay, and had seined 200 barrels of mackerel, thereby contravening the Reciprocity Treaty, inasmuch as the fishery was in possession of British subjects. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Comeau complained to me of the trespass. I told them I would lay the matter before the Government, and that I hoped before another season some action would be taken in relation to it.

Mr. Hamilton informed me that four of his men had deserted; each was in debt to him £20. The law relative to such offences does not appear to deter them; they get advances from their employers, and the first opportunity that offers for higher wages, they desert when their services are valuable, and when and where their employers can get no hands, especially do I hear that the Americans induce the men to desert by the offer of higher wages.

By the Act the men are well guarded because they have the first lien on the cargo. Several of the men in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company demanded their discharge from Mr. Comeau (the officer in charge of the post). They were very violent, and with threats said they would leave him directly. Their plea was that they were engaged for the salmon fisheries only, which they contended were finished for the season. Mr. Comeau told them that he wanted them for the cod, mackerel and herring fishery, and that he could not discharge them. He called on me and told them he should leave the matter in my hands. I asked if there was any written agreement with the parties; he put in my hands a Notarial agreement with the men's signatures affixed. I asked them if they had signed the paper—they acknowledged the signatures. I read the agreement to them and found that they had been engaged for the salmon and "*other fisheries*."

I explained to the men their position, and told them the penalties they would incur for a breach of contract. They were much displeased—said they were engaged for the salmon fisheries only. After a short time I was glad to perceive they went quietly to their work.

From Seven Islands we proceeded to the River Moisie—a very valuable salmon river. Just as we arrived a schooner got under weigh and proceeded downwards. Mr. Comeau (who was with me), was of opinion that she was there for the purpose of spearing. The man at the station said she had been on the opposite side of the river eight days, so I fear she was there for no good purpose. The number of fish taken at the Moisie this season was about 1,100. An American firm, Messrs. Winslow & Jokes, purchase the most of the fish taken by the Hudson's Bay Company at the Moisie. They have an establishment where they prepare the fish in hermetically sealed tins, and some they pack in ice for the American market. It is not very creditable to Canadian enterprise that they should show us the wealth of our Gulf and Rivers.

Strong easterly winds prevailing, I sent the schooner back and returned the next day to Seven Islands, distant from the Moisie about 16 miles. We walked through leagues of cranberries, enough to supply the whole of Canada. It would yield a handsome return to any person who would engage in the business.

September 1st.

We returned to the Seven Islands and found the schooner "Syren" had just returned from Mingan. This vessel was in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company. She had been at the lower posts collecting the salmon that had been caught

in the lower rivers. I have been permitted to make an extract from a letter sent to Mr. Comeau, from the officer in charge of the Mingan station. It speaks volumes :

"The salmon fisheries this season have completely gone to the d——l. All the rivers have been entered and held by force by arms. Some of the people at Chicaska threatened to shoot Mr. Dore for endeavouring to prevent them from setting their nets across those of the Company. The proceeds of the lower posts are 17 tierces."

Such is the state of the salmon fisheries at the present time, it is impossible to ascertain the quantity of fish taken on the north shore this year. From the many hundreds of nets that have been placed in the rivers and bays which, together with the vile practice of spearing, has almost totally destroyed them.

By comparison we may perceive the evils that a few years have brought upon these fisheries.

The Natashquan formerly yielded from 250 to 300 tierces, sometimes as high as 400 tierces. This year it has only yielded about ten tierces.

The St. John gave 160 to 200 tierces. This year about 7 to 10 have been taken ; and about the same number have been speared on the spawning beds. Other rivers have decreased in the same ratio

The following circumstance will show the abundance of salmon formerly taken, and at the same time show the destruction even by the Company themselves :—

In the spawning pools of the River Moisie were taken, in 1853, 55 tierces of salmon. In the following year they were reduced to 25 tierces. Last year to 18 tierces. This year the Company have not fished the spawning beds ; another person has, and he took ten tierces of fish.

The reason why the pools were not fished this year by the Company arose from the fact that complaints had been made, that the fish were unsaleable owing to the peculiar mode by which the poor fish were taught to swim after death. They were caught on their spawning beds (between the river and these ponds there was a long portage), and the habit was to string the fish together, and by the aid of a float send them down the river over rapids and falls to the lower waters, consequently they became bruised, broken, and unsaleable. Is any punishment too severe for parties who so wantonly destroy the gifts of a good providence ? The authorities of the Hudson's Bay Company could scarcely be aware that such a system of fishing was practised.

The easterly winds still continuing, and having obtained the information I sought for, I conceived it my duty to return, and at the earliest moment put you in possession of the information contained in this report.

On my return I touched at some of the places I had called at before ; thence crossed to the south shore, visited various mill dams in my upward route by land, and arrived at Quebec on the 17th instant. The schooner arrived on the following day.

I have now the honor to suggest what I conceive to be the only effective remedy to prevent the utter destruction of the salmon fisheries of the St. Lawrence ; and would beg to recommend :—

1st. That the boundary of the River St. Lawrence should be defined according to Article 1 of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, and which will prevent all disputes in future ; for I am persuaded that serious collisions will take place unless the limits are defined by proper constituted authority.

2nd. That the salmon fisheries of the St. Lawrence and its tributaries (with the bays included), be leased by *public competition and tender*.

3rd. That the fisheries be leased for a term of not less than five years, and that one half of the whole rent be paid in advance.

4th. That the Ste. Margeurite (in the Saguenay), and the St. John, above Mingan, should be reserved as nurseries for the salmon, and that no nets should be placed in any part of those rivers, nor any fishing whatever permitted without the sanction of the proper authorities.

5th. The revenue that would be derived from the leasing of the salmon fisheries would be more than sufficient to cover the outlay for the most effective protection; and as it is impossible to do so by means of a sailing vessel, I would venture to suggest the adoption of the means pointed out by Dr. Adamson, in his lecture read before the members of the Canadian Institute last year, viz., the employing of one or two steamers of light draft of water, built very strong and of good power,—such vessels would not be affected by change of wind, and could make for any point where most required.

The good effects of such vessels would be seen, first, in affording a guaranty to the well disposed fishermen, and by being a terror to the lawless. Second, "by their service in visiting the lighthouses, and other public works, conveying the managers, workmen, and fishermen to their several stations; and in protecting the lessees of the province."

On the extension of the railroad along our coast, the markets could be supplied daily, and in a short time the vast resources by the river and gulf would be brought into play; and before the expiration of the first salmon fishery leases, the St. Lawrence would have become the mart for the American continent.

The lease of the rivers held by the Hudson's Bay Company (I believe), is not yet expired; but I understand they are willing to give them up directly, if they are requested to do so. In such a case the leasing of the whole of the north shore would be perfect, otherwise it would be necessary to reserve their rivers until the lease expired, when they could be re-leased by competition.

Accompanying this report is a chart that I have prepared of the rivers, &c., &c., on the north shore of the St. Lawrence from the Saguenay (inclusive), to Blanc Sablon, the Province boundary.

The principal salmon rivers are marked with a double line red and black.

There are two rivers that are not included in the map—the Jacques Cartier and Escoumins, the last of which I would much wish to see leased, as in proper hands it would be a feeder to the upper rivers.

There are two plans relative to the leasing of the rivers that I would submit for your consideration. Either to lease the rivers separately, giving half-a-mile frontage, with the right of cutting firewood necessary for the fishing establishment, and the bays and points also separately, subject to the same provision; or to lease fishery stations from point to point, as marked off in the chart, and noted "Fishery stations."

The latter plan I am most decidedly in favor of, as it would place the fisheries in the hands of persons of responsibility who would feel it their interest to fish systematically, and who would possibly erect weirs, and who, in the comprehensive words of Dr. Adamson, "would permit the fittest for the purpose to pass on to propagate their kind; allow the young to enjoy life till they become mature; and suffer the sick and unhealthy to return to their invigorating pastures in the depths of the ocean."

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

(Signed), RICHARD NETTLE.
Superintendent of Fisheries for Lower Canada.

Honorable Colonel TACHE,
Commissioner of Crown Lands, Toronto.

APPENDIX U. (2).

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FISHERIES FOR LOWER CANADA, ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1857.

(Copy.)

SIR,—My report for the quarter ending September 30th had special reference to the fisheries of the Gulf, and the Rivers of the Lower St. Lawrence, at the conclusion of which I had the honor to suggest the adoption of such measures as were necessary for the proper protection and development of the Salmon and the deep sea fisheries, and as before closing this report I shall have occasion to touch upon the same subject, I shall now do myself the honor to report my proceedings for the quarter ending 31st December, 1857.

Having obtained the sanction of the Government to construct the apparatus for the artificial propagation of salmon, &c., which I was well enabled to do by means of the aqueduct from the River St. Charles, giving a continuous supply of pure water, I engaged competent mechanics (carpenters and plumbers), and under my direction we have completed an "Ovarium," which has been viewed with very much gratification by the principal residents of Quebec, and elsewhere. (A plan of the apparatus will accompany this report.)

The spawning boxes would contain about 8,000 ova (portable boxes may be made to contain about 6,000 more within the tank or pond), and the large pond will contain about 10,000 young fish. I had hoped that the Ovarium could have been constructed solely of wood, but when I let on the water, I found that with all our care the boxes still leaked, consequently I was obliged to have them lined with lead and zinc, which has entailed an additional expense, and also lengthened the time taken in their construction. I also deemed it prudent to deviate a little from my original plan, as I had obtained a very large apartment, and was therefore enabled to build the apparatus one-third larger than I had at first intended, by which it has become vastly more useful. The whole arrangement has been acknowledged by all parties to be creditable alike to the Province and to the Superintendent of Fisheries.

I had intended to have obtained my spawn from the River Marguerite, in the Saguenay, but fearing I should have failed in consequence of the lateness of the season, I procured my ova from the Jacques Cartier, and a large quantity from Lake Beauport. The ova are looking very healthy, and with the temperature I am enabled to keep up in the room—65°, in the spawning boxes 43° to 44°, and in the pond, 46°—I may hope to have the young fish about the middle of February. I had the pleasure of showing the apparatus to a gentleman (Mr. Haladay,) who has been largely engaged in the breeding of salmon at Outcrarde, Ireland, and who visited Quebec on matters relative to the fisheries. He expressed much pleasure in the construction of the boxes, and the arrangements generally, and on my telling him I had space for more spawn, he immediately wrote to his brother-in-law, in Ireland, to send me out a quantity of salmon ova. I am anxiously looking for it, not only as an experiment, but also because I have space for more, and would like to have my boxes filled. I have also placed myself in communication with the Board of Works, Dublin, and have solicited them to favour me with every information relative to the artificial propagation, also for such models or drawings as they may have of migration passes; I have also asked them for a quantity of spawn, of which I have been given to understand they have a constant supply.

The well known desire of the Board to disseminate all information relative to the artificial propagation, &c., leads me to hope that I may be favoured with some valuable matter useful to the Province.

It is very satisfactory to state that several persons who have seen the Ovarium, and to whom I explained the process of procuring the spawn, have determined to commence operations themselves the next season, on the small rivers and streams running through their lands, and I have no doubt but that in a short time the process will become very general. It would be desirable to obtain a large amount of the spawn of the salmon trout of Upper Canada, to stock our lakes in the Districts of Quebec, Montreal, Sherbrooke, and the adjoining places. Many of my correspondents have written to me on the subject, to whom I have replied,—“Form among yourselves fishing societies, see that the Fishery Act is enforced on all who render themselves amenable to the law, and you will find that there is every desire to assist you in your laudable enterprise.”

Major Johnston, of Sherbrooke, in his correspondence with me says:—“That the Americans from the south shore of Lake Memphremagog cross over, spear, and otherwise take the fish from the Canadian side of the lake, and think they are ‘mighty smart to destroy the fish of the Britishers.’”

The Major, though an active magistrate, was not aware of the passing of the Fishery Act of last session, not having received a copy of the Statutes. (I had understood that all persons in the Commission of the Peace received a copy, consequently I had not sent the whole of the magistrates a copy of the Fishery Act.)

I immediately sent him several copies of the Act together with the necessary printed forms for summons; and I feel assured that the Major will suffer no infringement of the law within his district.

Ample protection must be afforded to all persons who may be engaged in the artificial propagation of fish, so that they may not be interfered with by any person in the rights they may have acquired. The law on such matters is very rigid in the mother country, and heavy penalties are enforced against all infringements of it.

J. C. Comstock, Esq., the Fishery Commissioner for the State of Connecticut, wrote me several letters during the last summer on the subject of the protection of the fisheries, more particularly as related to the artificial propagation (which has become necessary in the States) and the migration passes, on which subject I afforded him all the information in my power.

He stated that certain parties had purchased the right of fishery in Lake Saltonstall, as a breeding ground, and that the penalty for infringing on their rights was by enactment two hundred dollars. They have since made extensive arrangements at that place, and have during the last fall obtained from Lakes Michigan and Ontario, above five millions of the ova of the white fish and the salmon trout, and have deposited the spawn in Lake Saltonstall during the last month.

I mention this circumstance, because I am aware that there are several parties here and elsewhere who are anxiously awaiting the action of the Government as regards the leasing the several salmon rivers within the Lower Province, and who would, where it was necessary, immediately commence the breeding of salmon on a very large scale.

The gentleman referred to in this report (Mr. Haladay), who has been so extensively engaged in the breeding of salmon in Ireland, is very desirous of leasing one or more of the rivers; indeed, numerous other parties have spoken to me on the same subject, and the general desire is that they should be leased to the highest bidder by public competition for a term of years, as may be agreed on.

The lessees of such rivers, for their own sakes, would fish in a systematic manner, and the result would be the preservation of our salmon fisheries and a large revenue to the Province.

Mr. Haladay told me his brother-in-law paid £2000 per annum for his fish-

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eries, that others paid a much larger amount. Surely with such magnificent fisheries as this Province can boast, it is not too much to say that they ought, and I am sure would, yield a very large revenue, and which every year would increase in value sufficient, indeed, to pay for the most efficient protection; and also afford the government an opportunity of assisting our own poor deep-sea fishermen, and thereby enable them to compete with the Americans, who are fostered and assisted in every way by their bounties, and otherwise, and who are thus enabled almost to drive our own fishermen from their own waters.

I am sure that it must be the desire of the government, that the fisheries should be developed, and that our own people should benefit by them, rather than our very acquisitive neighbours. I do not ask that the system of bounties be adopted, but I do think that depots of salt, at various points, would be a great benefit to our fishermen, and would be received by them as a most valuable boon.

I may be pardoned if I again respectfully urge the adoption of the suggestions contained in my report for the last quarter, more particularly to those clauses that relate to the boundaries of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, and the leasing of all the salmon rivers.

If determined on, it would be necessary that at least three months notice should be given in the leading papers on both sides of the Atlantic.

So far as the rivers at present in the possession of the Hudson's Bay Company are concerned (the lease of which expires in a few years) I have been informed that they would be given up to the government if applied for, and which, I think, would be very desirable as they are unable to hold them from lawless aggressors (see extract of letter in last report,—we would then have the whole of the salmon rivers on the north shore to throw into the market, which would command the attention of capitalists, both of the old country and among our own people, for without some such action I dare affirm our salmon fisheries will ere long be inevitably destroyed.

I was extremely desirous to ascertain if it were possible that the salmon of the river Jacques Cartier could ascend as far up as lake St. Joseph; I therefore traced the course of that river from the St. Lawrence to the lake. There is one very formidable obstacle between the Pont Dery and the Red Bridge, which few salmon can surmount unless during very high freshets. In the event of this river being leased (and there are several persons desirous of taking a lease of it), and it is very desirable that it should be, the proprietors for their own sakes would build a migration pass, which would then enable the fish to ascend to the lake, or to spawn in the upper waters. If not leased, it would be for the government to decide whether they would go to the expense of constructing a salmon pass. Again, there is a point above Dery's Bridge where the main channel concentrates, and the only point where the fish can ascend. This place has been constantly netted (though last year not after the first of August, in conformity with the Act). Now, though apparently violating the first clause of the eighteenth section of the Fishery Act by netting the main channel, yet keeping within the letter of the latter part of the same section by not even occupying one third of the breadth of the river.

The only way to overcome the difficulty is to enact that in no case shall any river be netted at a greater distance than three miles from its mouth, and which would be a very valuable clause, inasmuch as the salmon are not only speared but netted in their breeding ponds, and as the one practice is declared illegal so ought the other to be declared contrary to law. I found nets that had been used near the breeding ponds of the Goodbout river, at the least five miles from its mouth.

I have visited very many of the lakes and rivers, and have impressed upon the people in the various districts the benefit they will derive from a due observance of the law.

There are three or four persons who have rendered themselves amenable, and who will be punished for a breach of the Act.

I have been solicited to visit the localities of Sherbrooke, Megantic, and elsewhere, and have promised to do so at the earliest opportunity, as in these districts there is a wide field for usefulness.

The river St. Francis formerly abounded with salmon; but in consequence of the mill-dams (which I fear have not yet the migration passes) it has been destroyed as a salmon river. I hope to throw a few thousand young fry in this river (so soon as the passes are put up), and also in the various rivers both on the north and south shores above Quebec.

In my various visits to the lakes and rivers, I availed myself of the services of Mr. Paul Charlton on several occasions, to aid me in my manipulations, while obtaining spawn, as it could not be done without some careful assistance.

My correspondents from the Montreal and the Ottawa districts state that the lake fisheries are being destroyed from the vile system of netting, whereby cart-loads of trout are often taken; and that unless some remedy be found the whole of the trout fisheries in those districts will soon come to an end. Mr. Nairn, of Malbaie, has written to me on the same subject; he says that the lakes in his district are destroyed by the system of netting and jigging, and he begs me to recommend that a clause against such practices be added to the Act.

There are very many clauses in the Fishery Act that require amending, and as the 38th section vests in His Excellency the Governor in Council the authority to amend, alter, &c., &c.

I have now the honor to recommend the adoption of the following amendments which I have found necessary, and which will tend to the better working of the Fishery Act:

ADDENDA TO THE FISHERY ACT.

SECTION 27.

It shall not be lawful to catch salmon with a rod and line between the 1st day of September and the 1st day of March, in any year, in Lower Canada.

Reason:—Very many salmon have been taken during this last year so late as the middle of October, and the law evaded by their fishing with a rod and line and a large hook, and the fish have been gaffed, or what is termed gigged, on their spawning beds.

SECTION 28.

Any salmon taken in contravention of the 28th clause of the Fishery Act subjects all parties concerned in the breach of the said clause, whether the actual aggressor or accessories, to a penalty of not less than £12 10s., nor more than £25, or a committal to gaol of not more than six months, nor less than three months.

Reason:—The Act says it shall not be lawful to kill, &c. Consequently the penalty can only reach the party who actually commits the act, while his accessories or accomplices go unpunished, for it must be very apparent that there must be more than one person concerned in torchlight fishing, though only one who actually kills. I have punished a party for killing, but I should fail (according to the reading of the clause) were I to prosecute the accomplice, at least so my legal adviser informs me.

As regards the increase of the penalty, it is well known that often from 50 to 100, and even as high as 200 salmon, have been speared by parties in a very short time.

SECTION 28.

Any person who may buy or receive from any Indian or other person, or who may possess any salmon taken in contravention of the 28th section of the Fishery

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Act, shall forfeit to the Crown a penalty of not less than £25, nor more than £50, together with the canoe, boat, or other vessel wherein the fish may have been placed ; or shall be committed to gaol for a period of not less than three months nor more than six months.

Reason :— The river and gulf are thronged with traders who urge on the poor Indian to bring them salmon, no matter when and how killed, and give them a penny per lb. One of the chief causes of the destruction of our salmon fisheries has arisen from the fact that traders from all parts have been in the habit of urging on the Indians to procure them salmon whether speared or not ; and each trader sells spirits without a license.

The Superintendent of Fisheries may search (or grant a warrant to have searched) any vessel or other place where he may have cause to believe that any fish taken in contravention of the 28th clause of the Fishery Act may have been concealed.

SECTION 31.

The word "speckled" in the clause to be omitted, and after the word "trout" the words *or lunge* to be inserted ; and the word *first* to be placed in the stead of the word *fourteenth* in the same clause.

Reason :— The word "speckled" is an absurd term, and would possibly lead to what Major Johnston calls "lawyers' quibbles ;" and the lunge is neither more nor less than the lake trout.

SECTION 32.

The word "speckled" omitted, and after the word "trout" insert the word "lunge" in the same section.

Reason :— Obvious from the alterations in the 31st section.

SECTION 35.

To be annulled so far as the salmon fisheries are concerned.

Reason :— As many persons as there are weeks in the year would claim possession of every river in Lower Canada.

Trout-fishing.—It shall not be lawful to catch trout in any lake by means of seine, or net of any description, in Lower Canada, and the same penalty as in the 33rd section of the Fishery Act shall attach to this.

Artificial Propagation.—To facilitate the artificial propagation of fish in Lower Canada, the superintendent of fisheries may grant written permission to any person who may be desirous of obtaining spawn, to fish for that purpose during the close season.

It will be necessary hereafter to make special enactments for the protection of all persons who may engage in the breeding of fish.

These alterations and amendments are but a few of the many that will be required, from time to time, as the fisheries progress in importance.

I have made but little reference in this report to the deep-sea fisheries ; those of our own people who are engaged in these fisheries, and who have been so for a long time, have lately had a great deal to contend with, from the fact that the north shore of the St. Lawrence has been visited with fleets of American fishermen who, in contravention of the Reciprocity Treaty, have insisted on fishing on the ground occupied by Canadian fishermen, and complaints have been made to me of very serious losses that have been sustained by our fishermen, and unless means are taken to prevent the recurrence of such illegal practices, I am fearful that our fishermen will be driven from their occupations.

Randall Jones, and others, of Bradore Bay, have suffered great losses in their seal fisheries, in consequence of a determination on the part of the Americans and others to fish in the waters that have been occupied by them for many years ; and which right of fishery, it appears, was acquired by Sheriff's sale. He has requested

me to bring his case under your notice, and he prays for protection, for which he would gladly pay a per centage to the Government; and indeed every deep-sea fisherman on the north shore would gladly do the same.

By reference to my report for the last quarter, it will be seen that the Americans, not content with fishing in those places permitted them under the Reciprocity Treaty, cruise where they like, and fish where they like, simply because the limits of the River and the Gulf have not been defined.

I would therefore again most urgently pray for the adoption of those recommendations which I had the honor to suggest in my report for the last quarter.

The late Commissioner of Crown Lands assured me that he was prepared to recommend to be granted whatever would be necessary for the efficient protection of the fisheries. The former Commissioner of the Board of Works, who during the last summer visited the various Government works in the river and gulf, and who had a good opportunity of seeing the large number of vessels employed in the fisheries, stated to me that he was prepared to recommend that the Superintendent of Fisheries should have placed under his charge a steam-vessel with sufficient force to compel the lawless aggressors of the Fishery Act to keep within their own limits, and within bounds of the law. No sailing vessel, hower fleet, can at all compare in utility with a steamboat.

I have understood that there are two steam gun-boats at Bermuda laid up, and doing nothing, under the control of the Admiral of the West India Station. Such vessels would be admirably adapted for the purpose, and I cannot doubt that were application made one of them would be placed at the disposal of the Government.

There are many other matters that I wish to bring under your notice, relative to the colonizing the North Shore, and the proper means to be adopted for that purpose; as also on matters relative to the rivers that flow through seigniorial lands, which can be far better done personally than by letter.

I would therefore think it desirable that I should be at the office for a short period, when and where such measures could be adopted as would tend to the advancement, regulation, and the development of the Fisheries of Lower Canada.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient, humble servant,

(Signed,)

RICHARD NETTLE,

Superintendent of Fisheries for L. C.

APPENDIX V. (1)

FIRST REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FISHERIES FOR UPPER CANADA.

HAMILTON, October, 1857.

SIR,—In conformity with instructions furnished me by the Honorable the Commissioner of the Crown Lands Department, under dates the 3rd and 25th August last respectively, I proceeded to the Sant Ste. Marie, with the intention of visiting Michipicoten Island, on Lake Superior, a fishing station reported to be of importance. I found however upon enquiry at that time that there were no inhabitants resident upon it to supply me with the information necessarily sought regarding its capability as a fishing station: that the distance to it was about one hundred and forty miles in the open lake, and there being no direct communication without incurring large expenditure of money and time in hiring a boat and crew, which might likely be delayed by adverse weather to a period of ten to fifteen days, along

an iron bound coast, without any protection or harbor of refuge to resort to in case of need: I deemed it the most prudent course to leave this part of my duty to a more favorable opportunity, and turn my attention to the investigation of other important stations on my return, and which are as follows.

Commencing at the Falls of the Sault St. Marie, I found upon inquiry from the most intelligent of the inhabitants, among whom I may mention Joseph Wilson, Esq., Her Majesty's Collector of Customs, Captain Bannett, and Mr. David Pim, that fish were taken in large quantities nearly at all seasons of the year; such as salmon trout, of which there are three or four different species, white fish, and herrings, of a larger size than ordinary herrings, taking about two hundred to fill a barrel, and are sold for five to six dollars per barrel in Detroit market, at from three and a half to four dollars net profit, and the trout from nine to eleven dollars, according to size and quality, leaving a good margin of profit to the parties engaged in the trade.

The mode of fishing is by scoop nets, and standing gill nets set with stakes in the smooth water below the foot of the current, and scooping for fish at random in the troubled waters at the foot of the falls and the eddies thereof. This system of fishing is carried on by Canadians or half-caste Indians, and Americans from the opposite side of the river, indiscriminately, without let or hindrance by either party, and thus the Americans secure the greater quantity by extending their operations beyond their own limits. I mean the centre of the waters.

I have, however, strongly remonstrated with the authorities on the American or south side of the Sault against this practice, and distributed among them some copies of the Act, and they promised in good faith to put a stop to this practice for the future; and from the courteous manner exhibited towards myself while among them. I have reason to believe them sincere on this point. I am further led to believe that the greater part of the fish taken here are consumed by the inhabitants on both sides, and the surplus sent by steamers and schooners to Detroit and the Michigan country, chiefly in a fresh state. It is, however, my candid opinion that, if the fishery at this station were in the hands of skillful men, under proper regulations, it might be made to yield from two to three thousand barrels annually; but at present, from the information I received, the quantity does not appear to exceed one thousand barrels. There are, also, sturgeon taken here in considerable numbers, of a very rich quality, too rich indeed for food, but which might be converted into oil at a very fair profit.

The next station I visited is the Island of St. Joseph. Major Raines, resident there, informs me that the Indians are chiefly the only fishermen in this quarter, with now and then a stray 'Yankee,' whom he always drives off, when discovered, and that probably about seven hundred to eight hundred barrels are taken annually, and what is not used by the natives themselves are sold fresh to American vessels cruising about the island for that purpose, and consist of salmon trout and white fish taken in standing gill nets, and hooks baited with small herrings; in this way the larger description of trout are likewise taken.

The next was the Great Manitoulin. These islands are under the supervision of that excellent and kind man, Captain Ironside; who furnished me with the following detailed account of the product of the fisheries in and around that important fishing station, supplied to him annually by the Indians, who alone exercise the privileges of the fisheries thereabouts. The quantity in the aggregate, comprising nine stations, amounts to two thousand three hundred and eight barrels; consisting of the same quality and description of fish as at the Island of St. Joseph, and are taken and sold, or disposed of, in the same manner.

The next station that I visited was the Little Current, and Shebonaning, in the Narrows, between Georgian Bay and the Manitoulin. This is a very barren

station on the main passage to the Sault, is an Indian village thinly inhabited, with a Post Office conducted by one Johnson or Johnston, who deals in merchandize and largely in fish among the Indians. This gentleman has promised to supply me with a correct statement of the fish taken in and about that place, but has not as yet done so. I have, however, through other channels more worthy of credence, found they could not fall far short of one thousand barrels, but how disposed of I could not correctly ascertain. The fish taken here, however, bear the same character as those caught at Manitoulin and St. Joseph, and are disposed of, I suppose, in the same way.

Next to this I proceeded to Georgian Bay, and find as follows :

Club Island Station.....	300 brls.
Horse Shoe and Isle of Coves	300 "
Owen Sound and Cape Crocker.....	450 "
Cape Rich and Meaford	250 "
Collingwood and Christian Island.....	2000 "
Penetanguishine and North Shore of that Bay....	750 "
Cape Smith	300 "
South Bay and vicinity	800 "

Returning to Collingwood and proceeding in the direction of Owen Sound, I find at the fishing Islands, North Saugeen or Sables River, and the Islands thereabouts 3,463 barrels herrings, and 2000 barrels salmon trout and white fish.

Port Elgin, Herrings	1500 brls.
White Fish and Trout.....	500 "
Bay de Dart, Herrings	100 "
Inverhuron.....	100 "
Port Head.....	100 "
Kincardine	250 "

The fish are caught here by means of gill nets and seines, and are disposed of among the new settlers along that coast, at the rate of five dollars per barrel for herrings, and from nine to ten dollars per barrel for trout, yielding to the fishermen about one half net profit for the herrings and from six to six and a half for trout.

Near Goderich, Captain Rowan, of the "Ploughboy" steamer, who is himself a fisherman, supplied me with the following information, and states that it is rather under than over the amount usually caught yearly, and if followed by expert fishermen with proper fishing tackle that ten times the quantity might be taken. He allowed for Goderich, Whitefish 2,000 barrels, but could not detail the quantity of Herrings, though considerable :

For Bayfield Fisheries, Herrings	150 brls.
Little River au Sables.....	300 "
Kettle Point, Herrings	100 "
Point Edward, or Military Reserve	2000 "
Do do	about one hundred tons
of Pickerel, worth £10 per ton, equal to Herrings	800 "

The Fisheries here are conducted by Samuel Hitchcock, a Canadian, and the fish are sent to Detroit for sale, and their average value is five dollars per barrel in that market, which yields here about one-half profit net ; now from Port Sarnia to Baby Point, or Walpole, about 2000 barrels Herrings, besides Sturgeon and Pickerel, of which I failed in procuring the quantity or anything approaching thereto from the fishermen in this quarter ; from the station to the Village of Wallaceburgh or mouth of the Sydenham River, around the St. Clair Channel and Walpole Island, the people hereabouts estimate the quantities taken at about 1000 barrels herrings annually, with few sturgeons, that are chiefly consumed among the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

Thence I proceeded to Port Windsor and down the Detroit River to Sandwich and Amherstburg. I submit the following statement as the result of my enquiries concerning the various fishing stations along that route. There are twenty-two stations which differ considerably in the quantities taken at each, but upon a comparison I have been enabled to average them at 20,000 fish a piece, which 300 to the barrel would give a total of 1,466 $\frac{2}{3}$ barrels of herrings. The fish taken at the above stations are chiefly herrings, which are mostly sold fresh in the Detroit market, realizing to the fishermen \$5 per barrel on the fishing ground. There are also sturgeon taken here, concerning which I could not obtain any reliable information as to the number or the disposal of them, but the subject is one to which I shall again direct my attention at the earliest opportunity.

My enquiries have not extended beyond the stations already named, and were continued up to the 28th of last month (September,) when the receipt of instructions of a later date induced me to abandon my intentions of finishing the investigation along the shore of Lake Erie, until I should first examine the places directed by my instructions of the 16th September.

Before concluding this report, I beg to say, that the difficulties incident to the full and satisfactory investigation of this important subject, have been considerably increased by the fear on the part of many of the fishermen, that the communication of correct information relative to their business might be afterwards turned to their injury. This prejudice I have endeavored to remove as much as possible, and I doubt not but that the feeling will gradually give place to a proper appreciation of their own interests and the advantages which would accrue to themselves and the public, by having the whole fishery interests of the country placed under proper management.

When I shall have further prosecuted my enquiries, I will be better able to point out those measures of practical utility which may be advantageously applied to the improvement of this branch of Canadian industry and enterprise. The results of my enquiries so far are thus recapitulated:

Recapitulation of the Fishing Stations detailed in the foregoing report, viz.:

Sault St. Mary and vicinity—undefined	(barrels)	1000
Island of St. Joseph,	"	750
Great Manitoulines,	"	2308
Club Island, in Georgian Bay,	"	300
Little Current and Shebounaning,	"	1000
Horseshoe and Isle of Coves,	"	300
Owen Sound and Cape Crocker,	"	450
Cape Rich and Meaford,	"	250
Collingwood Harbour and Christian Islands, ..	"	1000
Penetanguishine and North Shore,	"	750
Cape Smith,	"	300
South Bay and vicinity,	"	800
Fishing Islands, North of Saugeen,	"	3463
Same locality, Trout and White Fish,	"	2000
Port Elgin, Herrings,	"	1500
White Fish and Trout, same station,	"	500
Bay de Dart, Herrings	"	100
Inverhuron,	"	100
Port Head	"	100
Kincardine,	"	250
Goderich, White Fish	"	2000

Bayfield, Herrings.....	150
Little River au Sable.....	300
Kettle Point.....	100
Point Edward Military Reserve.....	2000
Same Station, Pickerel, equal in herrings to.....	800
Port Sarnia to Baby or Walpole Point.....	2000
Walpole Island and St. Clair, &c., &c.....	1000
Port Windsor along the Detroit River to Amherstburg..	1466 $\frac{2}{3}$

Total Barrels.....27037 $\frac{2}{3}$

All which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

(Signed,)

JOHN McCUAIG,

Superintendent of Fisheries, U. C.

APPENDIX V. (2.)

Pictou, 16th October, 1857.

SIR,—In accordance with your letter under date the 16th September, calling my attention to a paragraph appearing in an American paper, in which it is stated, "The writer has been informed by a gentleman engaged in the fisheries on Wellington Beach, in the County of Prince Edward, that he secured by an Act of the Provincial Parliament, at a cost of \$1,000, an allotment for fishing purposes, 222 rods long by 29 feet deep, and covering an area of four acres, and had caught there on the 16th July last, in one haul, 47,700 white fish, and in nine other hauls in as many consecutive days, and at no single haul less than 18,000;" and directing me to proceed to Wellington and ascertain on what grounds any exclusive right of fishing on any part of the beach is asserted.

I have the honor to report for your information that I left the city of Toronto on the afternoon of the 6th instant, and reached Wellington on the 9th instant. That after the most searching inquiry at, and in that neighborhood, on Friday and Saturday, and again on Monday and Tuesday last, with the exception of a claim advanced by Mr. Thomas Worthington some three or four years ago, during his residence at Wellington, and prior to his appointment to the Customs Department, by assignment from the College of Toronto, and which I am informed he has since abandoned, I am unable to discover the name of any party claiming the exclusive right to any portion of those fisheries by the authority of an Act of Parliament.

From the information I received, it appears the fisheries on the West Lake Beach from West point to Wellington, are divided into fourteen parts or sections, (see sketch marked A.) and occupied by parties whose names will appear in certificate herewith, marked B. their title to the privilege (if any) being one of sufferance under the Government.

In further corroboration of this, it may be observed by reference to the certificate herewith, also marked C, that the produce of those fisheries is stated to have been, during the season of 1856, as follows: packed, 719 barrels; local consumption, 719; total of 1438 barrels only. The certificates of William Harris, Inspector, and Mr. John Dorland, shews of the quantity packed in 1856, 799 barrels were inspected; and as they give it as their opinion those 799 barrels inspected constitute one-fourth part only of the catch in 1856, it would produce a total in that year of 3,196 barrels instead of 1,438, as appears by the certificate marked D. I have no hesitation therefore in saying, that these estimates are in my opinion much

below the actual quantity caught. An opinion very generally entertained by the fishermen, that it is the intention of the Government to lease these fishing grounds, and impose a toll on each lot, according to its relative value, renders it to their advantage (as they no doubt all contemplate securing leases) to underrate their value, and thereby secure corresponding advantages in the rental or toll to be paid to the Government.

This supposed direct pecuniary interest they have in representing the numbers caught far below the actual quantity, renders it necessary in prosecuting my enquiries for obtaining correct statistical information, to receive their representations with much caution. Connecting however, with information I received from other sources, and from parties having no present or prospective personal interest in misrepresenting the quantity caught, the following I note as the result of my enquiries: 1856, Produce of Wellington Beach to Westpoint, exported by way

of Picton,.....	859 barrels.
Local consumption, being the hands' share, or half of each haul of net,.....	750 "
Exported to New York market by Hamon Case,.....	913 "
And to Hamilton and Toronto,.....	187 "
Total,.....	2,709 "
Value on the beach at 30s. per barrel,.....	£4,063 10 0
Cost of barrel, 3s. 9d; salt, 1s; packing, &c., 1s. 6d.,.....	846 11 3

Net balance of the fishery,..... £3,216 18

The quantity caught this year, 1857, in the month of July, is without precedent. In one haul in the middle of July last 47,700 fish were taken, and 12,000 to 18,000 were taken in several consecutive hauls following; so great did this catch, at this period, exceed any previous year, that parties engaged in fishing were found quite unprepared with salt to cure or barrels into which to pack them; in consequence, large quantities (estimated by competent judges at 1,500 barrels) I regret to say, were lost and left to decay. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood complain, and certainly with good reason, that the odour from these decayed fish was so offensive, that at one time they contemplated the removal of their families from the vicinity; and many of the most respectable of them urge it as necessary, in order to preserve the fishing grounds, that fishermen should be confined in their operations to the months of September and October, and perhaps the first week in November in each year, to avoid a repetition of so great losses of fish. I shall, with your permission, continue my inspection of the whole line of fishing grounds, now that I am in the vicinity, throughout this district, from the extreme end of Point Traverse and the False Ducks to the Presqu' Isle, and so on homewards, along Lake Ontario shore to Toronto, for the purpose of obtaining the fullest information for my general report, to be completed at the end of the year, agreeably to the instructions bearing date the 3rd day of August last past.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed,)

JOHN McCUAIG,

Superintendent of Fisheries for Upper Canada.

To the Honorable the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Toronto.

(C.)

WELLINGTON, 10th October, 1857.

We certify that seven hundred and ninety-nine barrels of White Fish were inspected, during the season of 1856, and further say, in our opinion, that this

quantity constituted about one quarter of the entire catch of that year, say 1856.

(Signed,) WILLIAM HARRIS,
Inspector.

(Signed,) JOHN T. DORLAND.

Fish Inspection Office,
Wellington, 10th October, 1857.

(B.)

At a further meeting held at Peter Head's, in Wellington, on the 12th October, 1857, to ascertain if possible whether any person or persons dispute the right or rights of the parties named in the document taken on the 9th of October last or not.

No. 1. No person disputes the right of Paul Lambert.

No. 2. No person present knows exactly whether any one in particular disputes McDonell and Hayatt's right; one person states that he heard there were some disputes on this ground.

No. 3. John Harris and others occupy this ground peaceably at present, and for the past six years.

No. 4. William Jackson and Heskil McFaul have peaceable possession of this ground.

No. 5. Charles L. Wood and others. No person disputes this right.

No. 6. Anthony Benway and others are the rightful owners of this ground for the last eight years.

No. 7. Rufus Wilder and A. Benning own this ground. No objection whatever.

No. 8. John Branschum holds this ground from one Lawrence Murphy, under an agreement between themselves.

No. 9. Patrick Carroll, C. W. McFaul, Joseph Cummings, and others, are the rightful owners of this ground, as stated on the 9th October, 1857.

No. 10. Charles McFaul, Joseph Cummings, W. H. McFaul and John Joseph have had peaceable possession of this ground for eight years, previous to the month of August, 1856, when Lawrence Murphy and his sons came on to the ground, and have, against the will of the former parties, fished on the ground since.

No. 11. Richard Murphy, Henry Tinkelpaugh, John R. Trumpour, David Murphy and Anthony Benway own this ground. No dispute.

No. 12. David Donavan, Peter Head, Patrick Mackenzie, Samuel Blakely, Dennis Donavan, Edward B. Augusta, John Young, Chester Wilder, Dennis Murphy, James McKenzie, and William Tivey. Four seines on this ground.

A broken lot between Nos. 5 and 6 called the Tub ground, occupied by W. K. Forsyth and John Wood.

A broken lot between 8 and 9 called the Pigeon ground, occupied by Charles McFaul and W. K. Forsyth and others. Two seines on this ground.

The annexed was taken publicly at a large meeting, 12th October, 1857.

(Signed,)	ARCHIBALD McFAUL, J.P.
"	WILLIAM K. FORSYTH,
"	CHARLES McFAUL,
"	JOSEPH CUMMING,
"	SAMUEL BLAKELY,
"	ANTHONY A. BENWAY,
"	E. S. ROBLINS,
"	FULTON PALMER,
"	SAMUEL Mc———
"	PATRICK CARROLL,
"	JOHN RILLIS,
"	WILLIAM HARRIS, Inspector.

FISH INSPECTION OFFICE
WELLINGTON
HARBOR

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Dr.

(D.)

Memorandum (by undersigned) of Fishermen on the West Lake beach, Wellington, and by whom at present occupied as nearly as we can understand.

WELLINGTON, 9th October, 1857.

1. Ground near West Point, occupied by Paul Lambert ; not many fish were taken on this ground last year ; up to this time in the present year about 30 barrels were packed from the seine share, which is about one half of the fish caught on that ground.
2. Ground occupied by Robert McDonald, James Hyatt and others ; this ground would be about equal in value to the first, say 50 barrels.
3. Ground occupied by John Harris and others ; this ground of equal value to the first and second.
4. William Jackson and Haskell McFaul had 20 barrels to seine share last year, but not quite so much to present time this year.
5. Charles L. Wood has not done much, this year nor last, but it may have been his own fault ; this ground is not considered of as much value as the others.
6. Ground, Anthony Benway and others ; this ground gave about 40 barrels to the seine share last year, this year about 40 barrels to this time.
7. Rufus Wilder and Benway, this year to present time about 40 barrels to the seine share ; last year this ground produced to John Triple and others about 80 barrels.
8. John Branscham ; this ground last year gave to the seine about 14 barrels, and this year to the present time about 25 barrels.
9. Patrick Carroll, Charles McFaul, W. H. McFaul, Joseph Cummings, J. Wilder, and John Kellis ; this ground last year gave the seine 25 barrels, this year about 80 barrels.
10. C. McFaul, Joseph Cummings, W. H. McFaul, and John Trup ; this ground gave 100 barrels last year to the net, this year to present time about 125 barrels.
11. Richard Murphy, Henry Tinklepaugh and others ; this gave the net last year above 125 barrels, and this year to present time 200.
12. David Donovan, Peter Head and others ; this ground gave the net last year about 100 barrels, and this year to present time about 175 barrels.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed do hereby certify, that having been called on by John McCuaig, Esquire, Superintendent of Fisheries, for information regarding the fishing ground on the West Lake Beach, from West Point to Wellington, do hereby certify that the annexed statements are as nearly correct as we can state. Dated at Wellington, this 9th day of October, 1857.

Mr. McCuaig having presented to the meeting a communication from the *Utica Herald*, of the State of New York, dated 7th September, 1857, regarding the said fisheries, we have no hesitation in saying that the said communication is an exaggeration of the facts.

(Signed,)

ARCHIBALD McFAUL, J.P.
 JOSEPH CUMMINGS,
 WILLIAM HARRIS, Inspector,
 CHARLES McFAUL,
 HIRAM WILDER,
 HENRY TINKLEPAUGH,
 E. S. ROBLINS,
 WILLIAM HENRY McFAUL,
 GILBERT P. DORLAND,
 SAMUEL W. FLAGLER.

APPENDIX V. (3.)

REPORT No. 3.

Proceeding from West Point to Salmon Point, I found as follows—say 7 fishing stations, as under named, viz. :

		Barrels.
No. 1.—David McDonald, with 2 seines caught	.....	300
2.—A & E. Weeks, “ 2 “	.....	300
3.—Masting & Hicks, “ 2 “	.....	300
4.—Richard Jackson & Case, 4 “	.....	631
5.—Minard McDonald, 1 “	.....	150
6.—James Henelly, 2 “	.....	300
7.—Peter Huff, and 6 sons, 4 “	.....	500
Total.....		2481

This statement embraces the whole catch of the seines, the hands' half being included in the gross number of barrels, the fishery being conducted by the owners of the seines, with their families, who thus secure the whole catch to themselves, and is supposed to consist of three-fourths white fish and one-fourth salmon, worth 6 to 10 dollars per barrel, respectively.

Proceeding from this station along the lake shore to Long Point, or Point Traverse, visiting Soup Harbor, Point Peter light house, Gulf Pond, and so on to the end of the Point alluded to above.

The fisheries are carried on here by means of gill nets, and are set far out into the lake, the shore being so rocky that seines cannot be worked ; and the quantity of fish caught in the year 1856 is estimated, as near as may be, at 2000 barrels white fish, and 500 barrels salmon, which are barreled and sent to Oswego by means of schooners, and sold from 6 to 7 dollars per barrel for the white fish, and from 10 to 11 dollars for the salmon. Each fisherman having about 200 rods of gill nets, and a small boat costing, perhaps, \$150 for the whole equipment, which is managed by three to four men. This information I obtain from the people on shore, and not from the fishermen, always reluctant in affording information, though it is said they realize considerable profits from their operations. I next visited the Ducks, or Light House Island. This was many years ago the principal fishery for salmon, and great quantities were formerly caught during the months of October and November, but of late years have greatly fallen off, there being only 18 barrels taken here in 1856. Such is the statement of Mr. Joseph Sweetman, the light-house keeper, who has charge of it, and enjoys the fishing privilege under an order in council, 31st May, 1853.

I next visited Timber Island adjacent, and the harbor of Long Point, where 44 barrels of salmon have also been taken in 1856 ; from this proceeding along shore to Bull's Cove, a small fishery 3 miles from the point, and found 30 barrels salmon had been caught in 1856. All the above are seine-fishing on a small scale. From this and proceeding up Prince Edward's Bay, and around its head to Mainaker's Landing, and the residence of the Collector of Customs, I found that 346 barrels of fish, valued at £630, had been taken and shipped to Oswego in the season of 1856.

Continuing my course in this direction to the mouth of Black Creek, and Woorpose, and the Orphan Island, and so to the Upper Gap, and head of Amherst Island and the Pigeon, there appears to have been taken at the various stations alluded to, about 400 barrels of very superior salmon and 100 barrels of white fish, and fished by seines, and chiefly consumed by the inhabitants

themselves, my chief information having been obtained from a Mr. Wright, one of the magistrates on shore and a fisherman likewise, on whose statement I place every reliance. The fish, if barreled, would bring 6 to 10 dollars per barrel respectively; and are chiefly sold in a fresh state at so much a-piece, according to size and quality.

I now return to Picton, in order to prosecute my researches from Wellington Village along lake Ontario shore to Presqu'isle.

Proceeding from Picton to Wellington on the 26th October, 1857, I thus recommenced examining the coast, thence to Hugh's Point and Nicholson's Island, on the lake shore, which being very rocky and bold, the fisheries are carried on by means of gill nets, and the catch for 1856 is represented to be as follows, viz :

150 Barrels Salmon, at \$10.....	£375
150 Do. White fish, 6.....	225

From this station to Pleasant Bay and Bonnet light-house, adjacent to Nicholson's Island, the quantities are as follows :

James Pearson and George Cameron, with 2 seines :

44 Barrels White fish, \$6	£66
28 Barrels Salmon, 10.....	70
John Gerrow, gill nets } 50, 10.....	125
on the Bonnet, Salmon }	

Continuing my examination from this place to Weller's Beach, along the lake shore to Ball Head, 27 seines, as follows :

Hiram Squires and Woods.....	2 seines.
James Young and Brothers	2 "
John Hicks & Stapleton	2 "
Buchanan & Hikes.....	2 "
Wm. & Chas. Huyek.....	2 "
Bradshaw, Young & Co.....	4 "
Levitt, Clendinning & Co.....	2 "
E. & S. Wilkins	2 "
James Peck	1 "
William Levett.....	2 "
Charles Whitney.....	2 "
E. & S. Wilkins	1 "
Levett & Brother	1 "
Bryant & Sweet.....	1 "
James Young.....	1 "

The foregoing 27 seines are stated to have caught upon an average 70 barrels of fish each, said to be white fish chiefly, but from other statements obtained from people, I am convinced that a fair portion of them are salmon, so I feel justified in estimating them at \$7 per barrel, in which case 27 seines at 70 barrels each, 1890 barrels at \$7. The total value being about £3,307.

This beach or neck of land is owned by Government, lying between Lake Ontario and Weller's Lake, and the above estimate of fish is considered to fall short by many of the real quantity. The seines used on these grounds are of the largest size, measuring from 8 to 100 rods in length, and about 9 yards deep, and are said to cost about £90 each, which, with the boat and equipments will last 5 years, the bag to be renewed every 3 years.

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From Ball Head to Presqu'isle.

Patrick Bryant	1 seine each.
Henry Bryant	1 "
William Church	1 "
James Wanemaker	1 "
Henry Bly	1 "
James Bly	1 "
John Bly	1 "
Henry Brooks	1 "
David Brooks	1 "
Wm. Brooks	1 "
Thomas Jackes	1 "
Samuel Cole	1 "
Charles Weller	1 "
Henry Huff	1 "
Chas. Chisholm	1 "
Henry Weller	1 "
Benjamin Young	1 "
Wm. H. Gerow	1 "
Silas Reynolds	1 "
Wm. H. German	1 "

20 seines.

The average of each seine is 100 barrels fish, equal to 2000 barrels, at \$7, said to consist of whitefish, but doubtless a portion are salmon. There were shipped from this fishing station by the Collector of Customs to the United States, in 1856,

Fish to the value of	£2475 15 0
Coast ways	1076 10 0

£3552 5 0

Shewing that the hands' share of the fish caught, being one-half of the catch, is not estimated at all in this calculation, which is doubtless the case in all other fisheries.

From Brighton, Colborne, and Grafton, as follows :

Fishermen.	Average monthly catch from the 1st May to November, say six months.	No. of barrels taken with the seine.	Recapitulation.
Spencer Cole, seines .....	....	120	
Hiram Cole, gill	800	....	
Spencer and Cole, seines .....	....	48	
Edward Ranoch, gill	1500	....	
A. Scott	1000	....	
John Bowden	1500	....	
Wm. Hynes	800	....	
Robert Bell	500	....	
Curnahan & Clark	1500	....	
John Blakely	1000	....	
Morris Moore	1000	....	
John Brown	1500	....	
Dunnell Káaff	600	....	
Jas. & John Doyle	1600	....	
Jas. A. Smith	1000	....	
Jacob Smith	1000	....	
Thos. Brokenshire	900	....	
Jas. Maitland	900	....	
Wellington & Maxwell, gill	1500	....	
Cochran & Gilberts	1000	....	
David Redick	1400	....	
Geo. Thvidell	1000	....	
M. Smit Grave	900	....	
Hayward Wade	1000	....	
James Peck, seines	15	150	
H. & N. Huff .....	....	150	
John Cox, gill	1500	....	
Total Number Fish	25400	468	

Multiply 25,400 by 6 gives a total of 152,400 fishes, divide by 120 fish to the barrel, will give 1,270 barrels. Add 468 barrels, equal to £3041 10s.

Collector Port Colborne shipped in 1856, 562 bbls, valued £1046 10 0
do fish in boxes valued ... 2505 15 0
do £3552 5 0

Cobourg Fisheries.

As under, namely, showing the average catch of each Fisherman for the year 1856 :

	Salmon.	Whitefish.
Timothy Wiseman	10	50
Jeremiah Loosee	10	50
George Hunt	10	50
Frederick Karr	10	50
Walter McDonald	10	50
John Brown	10	50
Richard Geddy	10	50
Dennis McDonald	10	50
Nath. Bradshaw	10	50
John Fitzgerald	10	50
Frederick Jackes	10	50
Total	110	550

All Gill Nets.

The Collector at this port shipped in the year 1856, fish fresh in boxes to the value of £2230 15s.

110 Barrels Salmon at \$10 per barrel	£275	0	0
550 Barrels Whitefish at \$6 per barrel	825	0	0

Port Hope Fisheries.

	Salmon.	Whitefish.
Thomas Bessett	10	50
Henry Bessett	10	50
James Bessett.....	10	50
David Bessett.....	10	50

Total barrels	40	200
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200 Barrels Whitefish at \$6 per barrel	£300	0	0
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40 Barrels Salmon at \$10 per barrel	100	0	0
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The shipment from Cobourg clearly demonstrates the incorrectness of the fishermen's statement.

Port Newcastle.

The fisheries at this station are conducted by means of gill and trap nets, and the quantities are as follows—under the management of one man, who employs eight men and boys:

Salmon, 3000 barrels at 200 to the barrel.....	15	\$10
Salmon Trout, 1500 " 200 " "	7½	 10
White Fish, 5000 " 200 " "	25	 6
Pickercil, 3500 " 200 " "	17½	 6

Total Barrels.....	65	£118 15s.
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Port Union Fisheries.

The fishing at this station is carried on by gill nets, chiefly by people from Toronto, with about 6000 yards of net work, it is said, at 2s. 6d. per yard, and three boats, estimated at £7 10s. each. They continue their operations from July to the close of the season, and their catch is about 300 Salmon Trout, valued in Toronto market, whither they are conveyed for sale daily, at 2s. 6d. each, and 100 White fish per week, also sold at 7½ each.

Estimating the fishing therefore at 10 weeks, would give a total sum of about £406 5s.

This information was received from Mr. William Hethering, a resident at that fishing station.

Toronto Island Fisheries, conducted by one David Ward and others, who gave me the following information: it is said that after having held a consultation with the fishermen of this important station, he believes the quantity taken in the season of 1856 to be as follows:

3334 Trout, sold in Toronto at 2s. 6d.....	£416	15	0
1667 White Fish, at 7½d.....	52	1	10

Total.....	£468	16	10
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There are herrings taken here also, but I failed in procuring any account of the prebable quantity, though I feel well assured it must be considerable.

Port Credit Fisheries.

There being no data for the season of 1856, I cannot do better than adopt the statement of my informant, Mr. Stiles Stevens, with the assistance of the station master (J. Alanson, Esq.) at that very noted fishing ground, both having taken great interest in the protection of the fisheries; they state, by starting at Marigold's

lation.

Collector Port Colborne shipped in 1856, 562 bbls, valued £1046 10 0
fish in boxes valued ... 2505 15 0
do do £3552 6 0

car 1856 :

The Collector at this port shipped in the year 1856, fish fresh in boxes to the value of £2230 15s.

point. four miles west, and taking the course from thence to Etobicoke river, being four miles east, there are fourteen fishermen, with the same number of boats, including the Credit Fishery, with from 2000 to 2500 yards of gill nets to each boat, and the catch of each they estimate upon a low estimation at 33,600 fish each; this quantity multiplied by 14 gives 470,400, two-thirds salmon, equal to

313,600 at 2s. 6d.	£39200	0	0
One-third White Fish, 156,800, at 7½d.....	4900	0	0
	£44100	0	0

Oakville and Bronté Fisheries.

Carried on by the following persons, viz. :

Joseph Ward,	} Gill nets only, 1000 yards each. Oakville, Trout, 50 barrels at \$10. Bronté, Trout, 50
John Young,	
Thomas Thomas,	
— Piersey,	
Seth Conrad, and	
Thomas Sleigh.	100 at \$10.....£250

BURLINGTON BEACH, extending to Wellington Square, and down the South Coast of Lake Ontario to Grimsby; these Fisheries are carried on by the following persons :—

Names.	Herrings caught during the season of 1856 by Seines of fine mesh.	White Fish taken by large Seines same season.	White Fish in Gill Nets in same season.	Remarks.
Charles Curry	100000	4000	800	Estimate—1,900,000 Herrings = 158,333 doz. at 6d. £3458 6 6 76,000 small sized White Fish, at 7½d. 2375 0 0 10,400 large White Fish, at 10d. 416 13 4 Total currency. ... £6749 19 10
Frederick Curry.....	100000	4000	800	
Wm. Snooks.....	100000	4000	800	
John Livingstone.....	100000	4000	800	
Wm. McKinley.....	100000	4000	800	
Daniel McGuire.....	100000	4000	800	
John Tauf.....	100000	4000	800	
Wm. Palekins.....	100000	4000	800	
Thos. Armstrong.....	100000	4000	800	
Wm. Brown.....	100000	4000	800	
Big James.....	100000	4000	800	
N. Corry.....	100000	4000	800	
John Dynes.....	100000	4000	800	
George Snooks.....	100000	4000	800	
Benjamin Shirben.....	100000	4000	800	
John Baldry.....	100000	4000	800	
E. Corry.....	100000	4000	800	
Jan es Waddle.....	100000	4000	800	
Benjamin Joice.....	100000	4000	800	
	1900000	76000	10400	

All the above descriptions of Fish are brought ~~daily~~ to Hamilton market fresh, as follows, viz. :—

Herrings by the dozen, at 7½d. per dozen.
 Small sized White Fish at 9d. each.
 Large White Fish at 1s. 3d. each.

NIAGARA RIVER TO PORT DALHOUSIE FISHERIES, as stated by Patrick McNamara, a resident Fisherman at the mouth of the Niagara River, and agreed upon at a meeting of the parties engaged in that occupation, as follows, viz.:

Names.	No. of Seines.	Net yearly profit of each Seine.	Total number of Barrels for the season.	Remarks.
Patrick McNamara	2	75	150	To bring this into Barrels, take— £56000 1 \$9) 14400 (1600 barrels at \$9.
Walter Elliot	1	75	75	
Thomas Elliot	2	75	150	
James Arthur	1	75	75	
Noble Heath	1	75	75	
Jerry Daly	1	75	75	
Edward Bolton	1	75	75	
Mrs Petrie	3	75	225	
Edward Durham	1	75	75	
John Scott	1	75	75	
Peter Watts	1	75	75	
Ephraim Keaves	1	75	75	
	16	..	..	

To show more clearly the state of the case, I say—

16 seines at £75 profit each	£1200
Add the half of the catch, being equal to	1200
Production of the Gill Nets, equal to half the seine catch, is	1200
	<u>£3600</u>

The above fish sell readily at \$9 per barrel.--See margin.

Bay of Quinté Fisheries.

From Picton along the north-west high shore of that arm of the bay called Long Reach, to the Indian church, in the Township of Tyendinaga, I discovered no fishery of any note. In former years a few white fish were taken at Roblin's mills, on this route, but the quantity being so small is scarcely worth noticing; proceeding, however, along the north-west shore from this Indian church to Northport, there are nine fishing stations for herring; and again, from the mouth of the Salmon River to Belleville, I found on the Clergy and Indian reservations, another small fishery of herring also; and from the most reliable information I could obtain, there appears to be taken annually on this route to the River Trent about 1,500 barrels,—one-third of that quantity may be computed white fish. In former years salmon used to abound in the fall of the year in the rivers Moira, Salmon River, and Trent, but have long since wholly disappeared, and are replaced by quantities of pickerel, which frequent these localities in April for the purpose of spawning, and are freely taken at that season of the year, which should be prohibited; say, therefore:

1,000 barrels herrings—\$5.....	£1,250	0	0
500 barrels white fish—\$6.....	750	0	0
Total,.....	£2,000	0	0

Lake Erie Fisheries.

Amherstburg and islands thereabouts. There are extensive fisheries around this locality, carried on by the inhabitants, by means of stake and gill nets. A Mr. Thomas Paxton, one of the principal fishermen, acknowledged to have taken 2,500 barrels white fish, worth in Detroit market \$10 per barrel.....£6,250 0 0
And James Cousins, 120 barrels at \$10..... 300 0 0
And of herrings, 15 barrels, at \$5..... 18 15 0

£6,568 15 0

Point Pelée and the islands in that neighborhood by citizens from the vicinity, and Americans from the other side of the river, in common, with seines, trap and gill nets, are reported to have been caught as follows :

150 barrels sold in Detroit at \$10....	£375	0	0
75 do herring and pickerel at \$5	93	15	0
40 do white fish on the little island below, at \$10.....	100	0	0
	£7,137	10	0

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Return of the quantity of Fish, viz., Trout and White Fish, caught and cured on the shores of Lake Superior and a portion of Lake Huron ;—Also, showing the quantity of Oil manufactured at the Fisheries, during the year 1857.

Where Caught.	Fish—Number of Barrels.	Oil—Number of Gallons.	Remarks.
Lake Huron, Duck Islands	2048	200	
Other places on Lake Huron, Northwest of the } Island of Manitoulin	865	90	
Sault Ste. Marie Rapids	520	10	
Lake Superior, Namainse	250	6	
Michipicoten Island	240	10	
Michipicoten Port	80	7	
Pic Port	40	6	
Fort William	733	56	
Total	4776	385	

Value of 4776 barrels of Fish, at Sault Ste. Marie.....	\$6	\$26656
Value of 385 gallons of Oil	75c.	288 75
Total value		\$26944 75

Mr. Wilson, Collector of Customs, was pleased to supply me with the above statement, under a former promise.

J. McC.

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Photographic Sciences Corporation

**23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503**

I have the honor to submit the following Report and Recapitulation of the results of my first visit to the Fisheries of Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario, with such remarks as have suggested themselves to my mind in reference to different descriptions of fish, as supplied to me in gross numbers by the fishermen, without distinguishing their kind or quality, as undermentioned, viz :

Names of Fishing Stations.	No. of Barrels.	Rate per Barrel.	Amount.	General Remarks.
<i>Lake Huron.</i>				
Sault Ste. Marie	1000	£ 1750 0 0		Chiefly Trout and Whitefish.
Island of St. Joseph	750	1312 10 0		Ditto ditto
Munitoulin, (Great.)	2308	4039 0 0		Ditto ditto
Shebawenabning	1000	1750 0 0		Ditto ditto
Club Island	300	450 0 0		Whitefish and Herrings.
Horse-shoe and Isle of Coves	300	450 0 0		Ditto ditto
Owensound and Cape Croker	450	675 0 0		Herrings, Whitefish & Trout.
Cape Rich and Meaford	250	437 10 0		Trout and Whitefish.
Collingwood and Christian Islands	1000	1750 0 0		Ditto sent fresh to Toronto.
Penetanguishene and North Shore	750	1312 10 0		Ditto ditto
Cape Smith	300	450 0 0		Whitefish and Herrings.
South Bay and neighborhood	800	1100 0 0		Trout, Whitefish & Herrings.
Fishing Islands, North Saugeen	3463	4135 5 0		Trout and Herrings.
Same locality, North Saugeen	2000	3500 0 0		Ditto ditto
Port Elgin	1500	1875 0 0		Herrings.
Ditto	500	857 0 0		Trout and Whitefish.
Bay de Dart	100	125 0 0		Herrings.
Inverhuron	100	125 0 0		Ditto
Ditto	50	125 0 0		Trout.
Ditto	75	112 10 0		Whitefish.
Port Head and Stony Island	125	156 5 0		Herrings.
Ditto ditto	60	150 0 0		Trout.
Ditto ditto	40	60 0 0		Whitefish.
Kineardine	250	312 10 0		Herrings.
Goderich	2000	3500 0 0		Whitefish and Trout.
Bayfield	150	187 10 0		Herrings.
River aux Sables	300	.. ..		
Kettle Point	100	.. ..		
Point Edward, M. reservation	2000	.. ..		
Same station; Pickerel, 100 tons, at \$40 per ton, equal to Herrings	800	.. ..		
Port Samia and Baby Point	2000	.. ..		
Wallaceburg, Walpole Is'ls, and Lake St. Clair	1000	.. ..		
Port Windsor, along the Detroit River	1467	.. ..		
Port R, Cape Hurd, and neighborhood	428	.. ..		Trout } Sent by rail to
Ditto ditto	124	.. ..		Whitefish } Toronto packed
				[in boxes with ice.
<i>Lake Erie.</i>				
Amherstburg, and the islands about the head of the Lake, to Point Pelée Island	2500	10 6250 0 0		Whitefish.
James Cousins, by himself	120	10 300 0 0		Ditto
Ditto ditto	15	5 18 15 0		Herrings.
Point Pelée Islands, and other is'ls thereabouts	150	10 375 0 0		Whitefish.
Ditto ditto	75	5 93 15 0		Herrings & Pickerel mixed.
Little Island	40	10 100 0 0		Whitefish.
<i>Lake Ontario.</i>				
Wellington Beach, Prince Edward, East Lake Fisheries, west to Salmon Point	2481	6 3721 10 0		} Supposed quarter Salmon, balance Whitefish.
From Salmon Point to Point Traverse	2500	10 & 6 4250 0 0		Sal., 500; Whitefish, 2,000.
Lighthouse Island, or Ducks	18	10 45 0 0		Salmon.
Timber Island	44	10 110 0 0		Ditto.
Bull's Cove	30	10 75 0 0		Ditto.
South Bay	344	6 519 0 0		Ditto and Whitefish.
From Black Creek to Amherst Island	509	10 & 6 1150 0 0		400 lbs. Sal., 100 lbs. Wfish.

FISHERIES of Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario, &c.—(Continued.)

of the results
Ontario, with
ference to dif-
the fishermen,
l, viz :

Remarks.

out and Whitefish.

ditto

ditto

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and Herrings.

ditto

Whitefish & Trout.

Whitefish.

fresh to Toronto.

ditto

and Herrings.

Whitefish & Herrings.

Herrings.

ditto

Whitefish.

and Trout.

Sent by rail to
Toronto packed
in boxes with ice.

Pickarel mixed.

Quarter Salmon,
Whitefish,
Whitefish, 2,000.

Whitefish.
100 lbs. Wfish.

Name of Fishing Station.	No. of Barrels.	Rate per Barrel.	Amount.	General Remarks.
<i>Lake Ontario.—(Continued.)</i>				
Wellington Village to Nickerson's Island, } Huyek's Point, and Pleasant Bay..... }	300	10 & 6	600 0 0	Half Salmon and half Whitefish.
Pleasant Bay Beach to the Lighthouse Island adjacent	122	10 & 6	244 0 0	Ditto ditto
From Pleasant Bay to Bull Head.....	1890	6	2835 0 0	Principally Whitefish.
From Bull Head to Presqu' Isle.....	2000	6	3000 0 0	Ditto ditto
Brighton and Colborne Fishery.....	1738	6	2607 0 0	Ditto ditto
Grafton and Cobourg Fisheries.....	550	6	825 0 0	Whitefish.
Ditto ditto	110	10	275 0 0	Salmon.
Port Hope Fishery	200	6	300 0 0	Whitefish.
Ditto ditto	60	10	100 0 0	Salmon.
Port Newcastle Fishery.....	224	10	56 5 0	Ditto
Ditto ditto	174	5	21 17 6	Pickarel.
Ditto ditto	25	6	37 10 0	Whitefish.
Port Union, 3,000 Salmon, at 2s. 6d.	..	..	375 0 0	Sold fresh in Toronto m'ket.
Ditto 1,000 Whitefish, at 74d.	..	..	31 5 0	Ditto ditto
Isl'd oppos. Toronto, 3,334 Sal. & Tr't, at 2s. 6d.	..	..	416 15 0	Ditto ditto
Ditto ditto 1,666 Whitefish, at 74d.	..	..	52 1 3	Ditto ditto
P't Credit Fisheries, 313,600 Sal. & Tr't, at 2s. 6d.	..	..	39200 0 0	Despatched to many
Ditto ditto 156,800 Whitefish, at 74d.	..	..	4900 0 0	places, fresh, for sale.
Oakville and Bronté	100	..	..	Salmon.
Burlington Beach	..	..	6750 0 0	Whitefish and Herrings.
From Niagara River to Port Dalhousie.....	9	3600	0 0	Whitefish.
Bay Quinté Fisheries	1000	5	1250 0 0	Herrings.
Ditto ditto	500	6	750 0 0	Whitefish.
Total value.....	.....	£	117431 18 9	

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

In making suggestions in reference to those protective measures most necessary to preserve our fisheries from further deterioration, and if possible restore them to their original productiveness, I have been guided by what I have observed, and the information which I have collected while inspecting the various fishing stations. My attention has been particularly directed to the several methods of fishing, the means used in taking fish, the persons engaged, and the seasons of the year in which the fisheries are carried on.

The herring fisheries, on account of the small meshes in the nets, are very destructive upon the young of both the salmon, salmon-trout, and white fish. Myriads of these are taken in the herring seines, of not more than from two and a half to three inches in length; and thus in pursuing the least profitable of our fisheries, the waters are being rapidly depopulated of the most valuable and noble of our fish. I have, therefore, from these considerations, to recommend the disuse of the herring seines. The loss sustained in the herring fisheries will, it is considered, be very small in comparison with the great gain derived from allowing the salmon, salmon-trout and white fish to attain the weight of at least a few pounds before they are taken from their native element.

The smallest meshes for the seines, which it appears to me the true and general interests of the fisheries will justify, are those of two inches on the side of the square. Nor can any great immediate loss fall upon the fishermen themselves from enforcing such measures, because they have the free use, at all seasons of the year,

of the hook and line, and the gill nets; the ultimate advantages which must accrue to the Province from strictly enforcing such regulations in reference to our fisheries as shall restore them to their original productiveness, must far outweigh any temporary inconveniences.

CONCLUSION.

I have found greater difficulty in getting the information necessary, as to the basis of any suggestions, as to the time during which fishing with the seine should be prohibited; the spawning season of both the salmon trout and white fish extends from the middle of October until December. It would be a great pity, however, to allow the fish to be taken or killed at least one month previously to the period above named, and while they are on the way to deposit their ova. I would therefore recommend, that from the fifteenth of September until the first week in December, the use of the seine should be prohibited.

The means necessary to enforce any law embodying these suggestions, by being at the outset efficient, will in the end be less expensive. A suitable vessel to cruise over the fishing grounds, and fish inspectors at all the most important stations, would appear to be necessary to secure anything like a proper supervision. The inspectors too are the most necessary, as the fish bring a low price in the market on account of the careless and unmerchable manner in which they are at present put up. These inspectors receiving their pay from the parties employing them for packing and properly curing the fish, as it is in the case of pork, beef, potash, flour, &c., with an additional small allowance from the Government to watch the fishermen, would thus be able to account for all caught by them respectively, and account to the Superintendent for the quantity, for the general information of the Government.

The present value of the fisheries on the lakes, as elsewhere stated, is given at about \$500,000. This, I am satisfied, is far too low an estimate, a portion of Lake Erie and much of Lake Superior, having not as yet been fully examined. Whatever they may now be, a judicious supervision would undoubtedly double their productiveness.

The recommendations, therefore, which it appears to me the interests of the fisheries require, are as follows:

Firstly,—That, in order to protect them properly, the Fishery Act ought to be amended. The 5th Section ought to apply to all subjects of Her Majesty residing in the Province, but none other, directly or indirectly, may, &c.

Secondly,—That no nets with meshes less than two inches on the square.

Thirdly,—That the hook and line, and gill nets, may be allowed at all times except during the spawning season.

Fourthly,—One sailing vessel, to protect the fisheries chiefly on the upper lakes.

Fifthly,—Inspectors of Fish to be appointed at all the chief fishing stations and ports.

Sixthly,—Any offender against the provisions of the Act to incur a penalty not less than ten pounds, nor more than fifty pounds.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN McCUAIG,

Superintendent of Fisheries for U. C.

To the Honorable
Commissioner of Crown Lands,
Toronto.

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REFERENCES.

Shaded lines denote Salmon Rivers.

Thus

Dotted lines denote Fishery Stations.

68

COPY OF PLAN ACCOMPANYING THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF **FISHER**

AGENT OF **FISHERIES L.C.** TO THE 24th SEPT 1857.

Crown Land Office
TORONTO 24th SEPT. 1857.)

Commissioner.

S. R. Buxel, Draughtsman.