serting that the same smelts now

pected and they prepare to catch them.

It is a fact generally known, also, that

the fuller the tides the greater the bulk

the tides are not so full (for then they

are more evenly distributed) but be-

channels.



Genecal Business.

X'MAS & NEW YEAR.

1 AM OFFERING DURING THE

HOLIDAY SEASON,

an attractive assortment of

FANCY GOODS,

CONSISTING OF-

SUITABLE FOR PRESENTS for either

LADIES OR CENTLEMEN.

WATCHES AND CHAINS.

ETC., ETC., ETC.,

In great Variety and at Prices in keeping

NOTICE.

partment of Public Works, Fredericton, until

SATURDAY, 20th January, 1877, at noon, for Building the Bridge over the Memramcook River,

near Dorchester, according to plan and spacification, to be seen at the store of William Hickman, Esq.,

Dorchester, and at the Public Works Department

The names of two responsible persons willing to become security for the faithful performance of the

The Government do not bind themselves to accep

Chief Com. Public Works.

Department of Public Works, Fredericton, Dec.
20, 1876.

To Rent.

Oranges and Apples,

(Per Steamer to Halifax.)

Cases and Boxes Valencia RAISINS and FIGS

Oranges, Wholesale—\$5.00
Retail—40c. per doz., During Holidays.

Also—3 doz. Clipper Sleds, for Boys;

Manual State of Sleds, for Children;

low for Cash during X'mas Holidays.

SAUCES:

in Worcestershire, Tomato, Mushroom & Anchovie.

Corn Starch,

Canned Mackerel, Lobsters and

Oysters.

PICKLES,-in Chow Chow, Walnut and Mixed

Cayenne Pepper, Mustard, White Pepper.

(In Black and Green.)

CRUSHED AND PULVERIZED SUGARS.

All low for Cash.

Just Received:

500 POUNDS FRESH BUTTER

FOR SALE LOW BY

ROBERTSON & McANDREWS.

CHATHAM

VIA BOSTON.

3 CASES

WINCEYS

1 CASE

Hair Pins and Combs!

EVERITT & BUTLER.

Wholesale Warehouse.

KING STREET,

St. John.

IBERIAN.

Chatham, Dec. 3, 1876.

Chests & Half-Chests TEA.

Hazel Nuts, Scotch Confectionery,

Preserved Ginger, Dundee Marmalade

ALSO :-

" Upholstered Sleds for young ladies;

For particulars apply to

Oranges, Wholesale-\$5.00

100 Bbls. APPLES:

WM. M. KELLY.

The Chatham Agency of the Bank of Montreal, being about to

remove to the new office in Wel-

Street, lately occupied,

F. E. WINSLOW

lington St., the Building on Wa

with the Times.

FINE MEERSCHAUM PIPES,

ISAAC HARRIS.

LADIES' JEWELRY.

GENTS' JEWELRY.

Chatham, Dec. 7th, 1876.

the lowest or any tender.

Silver and Plated Articles,

THE Subscriber would respectfully inform his friends and customers, and the Public generally; that he has on hand and is prepared to manufacture HARNESS of every description; from the lightest driving to the heaviest team.

Also, on hand, a large assortment of COLLARS, WHIPS, BLANKETS, &c., which will be sold at prices to suit the times.

T. FINLAY, (Successor to R. & T. Finlay,)

General Business.

HARD TO FIND! Holiday Goods!

AS GOOD A STOCK OF STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS

LADIES', MISSES' & GENTS' FUR SETS,
MUFFS,

Boots, Felt and Arctic Overs, Rubbers The largest and cheapest Stock In Newcastle. PEOPLE'S HOUSE.

JAMES BROWN. November 23rd, 1876.

Glasgow House.

THE Subscriber has in Stock, a full and complete assortment of STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS Embracing some Lots which are worthy the attention of close cash purchasers.

-ALSO IN STORE-A Large Stock of English TEAS, (different grades.)

TOBACCO. (different brands.)

FLOUR, FISH, MOLASSES, PC All of which are offered at low rates

WILLIAM MURRAY. Chatham, Nov. 15th, 1376. 1, 11 and 2 Inch

Seasoned Pine Lumber. FOR SALE.

WM. MURRAY WANTED.

Oats, Homespun, Country Socks and Mitts WM. MURRAY.

MANCHESTER HOUSE.

JUST OPENED: Mattalasse Mantle Cloth: Duk Brown Beaver; Black French Merino; Black Barathea; Black Merino Anglais; Navy Blue French Merino @ 65c per yd.; Maroon French Merino;

PERSIAN CORDS. (VERY CHOICE,) In Navy and Seal Brown.

Ladies' Blk. Straw Bonnets; Ladies Blk. Dress Caps; Green and Gold Curtain Repps, @ \$1;

W. S. LOGGIE. \$2500 A YEAR. AGENTS WANTED OR

50 DISTINCT BOOKS anted everywhere. The Biggest thing ever Tried sales made from this when all single Books fail Also, Agents wanted on our MAGNIFICENT FAMILY BIBLE 5. Superior to all others. With invaluable illustrated Aids and Superb Bindings. These Books beat the world. Full particulars free. Address JOHN E. POTTER & CO., Publishers,

\$66 a week in your own town. Terms and \$5 outfit free. H. HALLETT & CO., Portland, Maine.

A FAVORITE

TER RESORT, JAMAICA.

Six to seven days voyage from New York by the Atlas Company's steamers, will convey you to the finest climate in the world, where there is a choice amid Mountains, Valleys, and winding Rivers. The climate is dry and warm, highly recommended by physicians as being specially adapted for invalids, nd also a favorite resort for tourists. The Atlas Company's British built, first-c'ass Iron Steamers, carrying the British Colonial and United States Mails, leave New York twice a month. FARE(Saloon), \$50 AM. GOLD.

APPLY TO Agent, 138 St. James St., Montreal JOSIAS BRAY, 67 Yonge St., Toronto. PIM, FORWOOD & Co., General Agents. 56 Wall Street, New York.

\$55 to \$77 a Week to Agents. Samples P. O. VICKERY, \$2 a day at home. Agents wanted. Outfit and terms free. TRUE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

STAMMERING cured by Bates' Appliances. For description &c, address SIMP. ON & CO., Box 5076, New York. 30 FANCY CARDS, 11 styles, with name, 10 cts. Postpaid. C. Walker, Chatham Village, N. Y.

©1175 PROFITS FROM \$10625 days by the late decline in stocks. The judicious management of STOCK CONTRACTS on the privilege plan a ways ensures a good return; often ten times the investment in as many days. Send for information and the "New System of As-

T. POTTER, WIGHT & CO... Stock Brokers. 35 Wall Street, New York 25 EXTRA FINE MIXED CARDS, with name, 10 cts postpaid. L. JONES & Co., Nassau, N. Y. 25 Extra Mixed Cards, 20 styles, or 20 New Year's Cards, 10 cents, postpaid. NASSAU CARD CO., Nassau N. Y. \$500 A MONTH to Active Men selling our Letused Sample copy worth \$3 00 free. Send stamp for circular. Excelsior Mannfact'g Co., 99 Madison and 132 Dearborn Street, CHICAGO.

\$5 to \$20 per day at home. Samples worth \$25 a day commission, or \$30 per week salary and expenses. We offer it and will pay lt. Apply now. EUREKA M'F'G Oo., Hartford, Conn. WHITE BRISTOL VISITING CARDS, with your name finely printed, for 25cts. Samples 3c stamp. No postals, 100 AGENTS WANTED. Address A. W. KINNEY, Yarmouth N.S.

South West Boom Company. The Annual Meeting of the above Company will be held on the Thursday after the Second Tuesday

n January next, being the Eleventh day of that month, at Three o'clock in the afternoon, at Mr. Witherall's, in Newcastle, for the purpose of choosing Directors for the ensuing year, and transacting such other business as they may deem necessary under the Act of Incorporation. place, on the same day, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon, to close up the business of the present year. ALEXANDER MORRISON.

Newcastle, 27th December, 1876. Fall Produce, &c,

The Subscriber has now on hand 50 quintals Halifax Codfish, (large) 50 barrels No. 1 Herring; 20 barrels Real Winter Apples;

50 boxes Raisins; 20 boxes Digby Smoked Herring.

Flour. Fresh Pork. Lard. Butter.

> Potatoes. Salt Pork.

Oysters. and other articles for Household u.e.

E. A. STRANG. Snewball's Wharf. BUSINESS NOTICE.

The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" is published at Chatham, Miramichi, N. B., every THURSDAY morning in time for despatch by the earliest mails o It is sent to any address in Canada, the United States or Great Britain (Postage prepaid by the Publisher) for \$1.50 A YEAR, or 75 CTS. FOR 6 MOS .the money, in all cases, to accompany the order for

Advertising. The advertisements in this paper are placed under

TRANSIENT RATES. \$1 per square, or inch, for 1st insertion. 35cts. per square, each time, for all insertions LOCAL COLUMN, or reading matter advertisement 20% more than above rates

In order to secure the advertising patronage of to give them the benefit of a large circulation in the Counties of Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester and Restigouche, Bonaventure and Gaspe, their advertisements will, on arrangements being made therefor, be taken at CONTRACT SCALE RATES, which are as low as those of other weekly papers The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" having its large

circulation distributed among communities en gaged in Lumbering, Fishing and Agricultural pursuits, offers very superior inducements to adver-Editor "Miramichi Advance," Chatham, N. B.

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1877.

The Smelt Fishery.

The following despatch was received on Saturday last by fishery officer Wyse. from W. F. Whitcher, Esq., Fishery

Commissioner, Ottawa: "Minister decides to allow Smelt fishing free with unlicensed nets actually in use to the middle of February subject to fishery laws forbidding destruction of young fish which must be restored alive to the water and obstructing channels and keeping nets reasonable distances apart and against leaving dead fish to waste, also restricting catch of all kinds to commercial uses and food. hook and line fishing allowed throughout winter season.

We observe that the News characterises the above despatch as ambiguous, professing that it cannot understand and stating that Inspector Venning, to whom it applied for an interpretation. was equally incapable of construing it. questions on the subject as clearly as it should have done, or the Inspector would have enlightened it. The despatch is not considered ambiguous by officer Wyse or any other person who can understand English, and the News' impertinent remarks respecting somebody being asleep at head quarters are entirely uncalled for. The Smelt fishery is being carried on now quietly and according to law and the instructions received from Mr. Whitcher, who as well as the Minister, seems disposed to act intelligently. We hope the Department will not allow itself to be alarmed by either the News or its correspondents in regard to Miramichi and Bathurst Smelt fishing matters.

SHIPPEGAN MAIL MATTER will have attention next week

will be found on our first page.

NEW FISHERY OFFICER. - Finlay Mc-Dairmaid, Esq., of Napan, has been appointed Fishery Warden for Napan and Black River.

OUR TELEGRAPHIC NEWS is not as full as usual this week, most of it being crowded out by matters of more local

KICKED TO DEATH .- It will be seen by our special despatches that a man was kicked to death at Sussex, on Tuesday. Sussex has an unenviable reputation on account of the brutality of its roughs.

50 Bags, 20 lb. each, Pastry Flour

The Fishery Inspector's Letter. 50 brls. Spring Extra Flour, A letter from W. H. Venning, Esq., Dominion Inspector of Fisheries for (Assorted Brands.)
OATMEAL: New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, ap-CORNMEAL 20 Boxes and half-boxes Raisins pears in this issue of the ADVANCE and Valencias & Seedless do. as it is intended to show that our edi-1 Brl. Currants torial articles of 4th inst. on "Pro-10 Bxs. Candied Lemon, Orange and Citror tection of the Smelt Fishery" and "Bass Glasgow Apothecary Company's Extracts. fishery" were the offsprings of miscon-Lemon, Citron, Nutmeg, Rose, Celery, Peach, Cinnamon, Vanilla, Peppermint, Orange, Cloves. ceptions of facts and the results of inin Cloves, Mace, Nutmegs, Carraway, Allspice.

correct and interested views, we shall take the liberty of dealing with some of For more than two years we have found it necessary, in the discharge of self-imposed duty, to eppose views entertained or acts due by both the fishery authorities and the fishermen, themselves, and because we have criticised both as we thought right, we have had our motives misunderstood, and that being so, what there was of reason and right in our utterances was lost sight of to a great extent. When we directed our efforts towards showing that the taxes imposed on the catches of salmon and bass in the Spring of 1875 were exorbitant, and especially so in view of the riparian privileges which had long been enjoyed by many of our fishermen. we know that the Inspector differed from us and that our motives for what we then said were unjustly impugned in quarters where they should have been more intelligently treated. When those

taxes were reduced, in compliance with the prayer of the fishermen's petitions and the Minister of Fisheries gave his official assurance that the fishermen's riparian privileges should be respected, we were blamed by some of the fishermen because we did not continue to be dissatisfied with the Department's position in the matter, and especially so because -guided by the light of legal decisions and the common rights of every British subject-we opposed the absurd and wicked "riparian rights" agitation which was stirred up in the County immediately after, and has practically ended as we said it would. We have, thus, from a departmental stand point, been guilty of claiming too much for the fishermen, while, in the fishermen's way of looking at it, we have been endeavoring to weaken their hands in what some of them were led to think was a contest for their "rights". Another phase of the fishery question now comes up and the Inspector intimates that we are acting from a combination of interested motives and ignorance of the facts, and, if we were not of opinion that when both parties immediately interested are dissatisfied with the views of a third in a matter at issue between them, it is should take no further active interest in thematter. Believing, however, that written the above. Practical

Inspector as well, perhaps, as from others who do not agree with him The Inspector appears to have a bad

memory. He says:-Your informant was in error in stating soon as they are on the ice and converts that I had "decided not to allow fishing for smelts in Bathurst harbor with bag nets similar to those in use in the vicinity of the Miramichi." In Bathurst I did precisely as in Napan. I informed all persons fishing with bag nets, or interested in their use, that they were illegal, except under | er the pure salt water, which accounts License, but that under the circumstances of the sudden growth of this fishery, and the absence of any specific regulations bearing upon it, I would not enforce the law until I had reported all the facts to the Minister and received instructions from head quarters; and I advised them to apply at once for Licences. In doing this I do not see in what way "my zeal got the As our informant was W. H. Ven-

ning, Esq., himself, and he said most distinctly that he had prohibited smelt fishing with bag nets in Bathurst harbor-"stopped it altogether"-we took it for granted that he meant what he said. As however, we now have the assurance of the Inspector that our informant was in error in the matter and that he did not prohibit bag-net fi hing in Bathurst harbor, we cheerfully withdraw what we have said about his zeal getting the better of him. In order that he may refresh his memory in regard to what he said about his prohibition of Bathurst bag-nets, we may say that he gave what he now says was incorrect information to T. W. Crocker, Esq., of Derby, and the editor of the Ap-VANCE in a conversation at the front door of Mr. Phillip Murphy's house in Napan on Thursday, 28th Dec.—just three weeks ago to day.

Notwithstanding Mr. Venning's ideas respecting the pleasures and profits of fishing for smelts with a hook and line through holes in the ice in our rigorous climate, we have good reasons to assum that he has not made out a case against bag nets if fished under some such restrictions as we proposed, and which he - very disingeniously, we think -has omitted to deal with in his letter. The fact that a few bag nets are used in We presume the News failed to put its so large a place as the area covered by the smelt fishing grounds of Bathurst harbor, does not prevent hook and line fishing by those who either hold Mi Venning's high opinion of its enjoyments and profits, or are too poor to provide themselves with nets. Poverty and want are subjects which very properly excite our sympathies, but the Inspector displays a misplaced and mistaken solicitude for them when he would convert them into a reason for preventing legitimate fishing. They lose their hold upon our sympathies when they are made engines for the oppression of those who are not poor, and the Inspector of Fisheries must, therefore, advance some stronger argument against bag net fishing than the fact that the extremely poor cannot afford to indulge in it. We presume, however, that our valued correspondent has satisfied himself that there is no lack of additional argument CHATHAM'S SHIPPING LIST, in full, in his letter, so we turn to what he says

on the subject of species, reproduction. The Inspector is a positive man. He is strong in assertion and, too often, takes it for granted that when he chooses to say a thing is so, it thereby becomes a matter on which there can be no manner of doubt. Unfortunately, also, for himself he talks of fishery matters as if he were the sole and exclusive custodian of all experience and knowledge of them. This has a tendency to lead him, at times, to treat others, who may have such regulations and suggested that given as great study and attention as he others might be added to them. It to certain fishes, their habits and pecu- would have been as well, we think, had larities, as if they were incapable of forming intelligent opinions on them. Such a characteristic must, of necessity. prevent its possessor from obtaining the fullest knowledge of subjects which belong to a class presenting a very wide field for intelligent enquiry, and we have, at times, felt that the Inspector has marred some of his best purposes and intentions as an officer, by stubbornly adhering to prejudices which might

have been removed by necessary en-The Inspector tells us "your perso-"those who have given the subject " in May and June to spawn, and on "this error your whole argument smelt generally and not to Bathurst smelts in particular, and we are justified by all the evidence that we can gatherthing better than mere assertion we shall treat it as the best on the subject spawn from about the first week in Janknow that the Bathurst smelts are of larger size than those of the Miramichi, but that, of itself, is not evidence that they are of a different variety, any more than the fact that Cascapediac salmon being larger than those of the Miramichi, proves them to belong to a different variety. It is, however, the Inspector who raises the question of variety, which we never referred to at all. and we wonder at the manner in which he attempts to put us in the position of asserting that the variety at Bathurst was the same as that at Napan, etc. He may rest assured that we are quite well aware of the difference in variety, and he ought to know that it is one depending on place and not on season, as he erroneously states. The Inspector, however, referring to the "run" of smelts now in our rivers and those which

ascend them in Spring, says:---They are a distinct variety from these. iffering greatly in appearance and having very different habits. These fish are now either spawning or on the very point of doing so, as a very cursory examination of them will prove. They do not swarm in our rivers for six months of the year, as you say, but will return to sea soon after depositing their spawn and milt, and long the smaller variety, known as "black-backs," make their appearance. This being the case, you will readily preceive how great a drain the destructive oag net must make on the breeding fish as well as on the young ones that are now uselessly exterminated

If the Inspector had taken the trouble to qualify himself to speak experimenta sign that number three is right, we ally in regard to Winter and Spring smelts he would not, we believe, have under the circumstances, it is our duty fishermen will tell him that the smelts lieve the proportion of them taken face of Turkey's delay and resistance were can very readily convince youself with but After shooting at Johnston he discharged to follow this matter up, we shall not be which he calls "black backs" are now there is not nearly so great as it is in contrary to the dignity of Europe and imdeterred from an attempt to hold our frequenting Napan River, Black River, the Nothwest only a few weeks earlier own ground, regretting, at the same and the other upper tidal waters of the in the season, and we must confess A copy of Bismarck's note was communitime, that we have to differ from the Miramichi. If he will come to these that, apart from the question of fitness cated to Earl Derby.

upper Miramichi waters and observe the for food, we cannot see the difference fish as they are taken from the rivers between catching a breeding bass in he will see that they are "black backs," March and in May. In both cases the but Jack Frost seizes them almost as progeny are destroyed and if that is to be entirely prevented we must have all them into "greenbacks," and very pale protection and no fishing-a state ones at that. The "silver backed" things which would render protection smelt is also visiting us, but it frequents worse than lost time. Respecting the the rivers which empty themselves neardestruction of Bass caused by seining for Gaspereaux we have nothing to say for that variety being found at Baat present, further than that the De-The Inspector misinterprets partment should make every effort to us when he makes us appear as asvisit such offences with such punishment as would make their practice very our rivers continue in them all winter. unprofitable. Do we understand the We intimated the spawning season was Inspector to mean that because some from January to June. The fish which rascally fishermen will not let bass go spawn in January return to sea to feed when they are caught in their gaspercodfish, haddock etc. (not herring or eaux seines out of season, the gaspermackeral, however, as those fish do not eaux fishery with seines ought to be eat smelts) and, with the next full tides stopped? We are not well up on this come another run which spawn and go part of the subject just yet and only to sea again, to give place to the next ask for information. run. The fishermen know that these The Inspector's statement that "over monthly "runs" of smelts may be exnine tons of Spawning Bass were taken in

of fish, not because there are any less fish in the rivers and their vicinity when cause the heavier volume of water, forcing itself upward, carries the smelts with it, and when the water runs off it concentrates them into the narrower We are quite as anxious as the Inspector can possibly be to have our smelt fishery protected and while it is, doubtless, true as Mr. Venning says, "that if left to the tender mercies of the 'fishermen themselves, its fate is not "a doubtful one," there is an undoubted tendency on his part to pay too little attention to the mode by which protection is secured. We hold that the de- ing fish could not be frozen for the U. re on the part of the fishermen to catch | S. markets, and had therefore to be put fish to an extent which endangers the on the markets of Chatham, Douglasexistence of a particular fishery is more town, Newcastle, Nelson, Bathurst and excusable than the adoption by an In- other places, and that bass were then spector of harsh or ill-considered means | illegally caught in the Northwest river to prevent it, for while fishermen, as a and sold in those places as Napan bass. rule, are not qualified to "trammel up The Inspector is evidently enabled by the consequences" and cannot therefore his local knowledge of the Miramichi to be expected to look far beyond their put together a very plausible theory, own immediate interests, an intelligent which might be accepted abroad but, officer should make due allowance for in the light of the facts as they are such a state of things and be careful to do nothing by guess-work, which may weaken his prestige and cause the class whose interests he deals with to look upon him as anything but a friend. Our experience leads us to believe that reasonable but firm treatment by public | the patent process at Messrs. Loggie and officers will almost always command the respect of the people, and fishermen are by no means an exceptional class. While we, therefore, agree with the Inspector that "it is one of the duties of an inteling bass were taken in Napan last year. "ligent editor to educate the mass of We have said enough to show that

"the people up to more intelligent "views," we also hold that it is equally the duty of those charged with the con- as facts. We believe that he desires to trol of class, as well as general interests to further the efforts of such editors by an equally intelligent exercise of the smaller fish; also that the catching of letter, are welcome to their opinion, but

We proposed, in one of the editorials which the Inspector has reviewed, that bag-nets for catching smelts be legalised and that the size of the mesh be regulated so as to provide for the escape of the smelts for other than commercial purposes—that is, for food—be prohibited. We gave good reasons for proposing the Inspector given us his ideas on those that are to follow a state of natural and number." other facts which partake a little to TELEGRAPHIC.

strongly of the theories of a positive mind unaccustomed to the discipline and light of discussion on equal terms. In dealing with our article on the bass question the Inspector is categorical and we will, as briefly as possible, deal with the "facts" as they are presented by him. We, therefore, say-

powers vested in them.

'nal observations and the evidence of May 1875, when the question of extending the season for bass fishing in the " their attention are very much at fault lower Miramichi waters was being dis-" in supposing that the Smelts now be- cussed, the writer, accompanied by one ing caught at Bathurst are of the same of the best angling sportsmen of the " variety as those that ascend your rivers | Miramichi, proceeded to Napan and brought to Chatham about twenty bass out of a hundred or more which were " based." We did not put it just as the taken in that river with a seine. The Inspector does. We referred to the writer opened and carefully examined seven of the largest fish, which averaged five pounds weight each, and not one contained ova. Four contained milt. and until the Inspector gives us some- but it showed no sign of ripeness, being firm and comparatively small. Our enquiries among those engaged in the bass -in continuing to believe that smelts | fishery in Napan, together with our own experience, therefore, lead us to the conclusion that breeding or mature fish are scarce in Napan in May. It is also a fact not to be disputed that the bass eaught in Napan are not more than twothirds the average size of those caught

in the Northwest Reply to "second fact." -- We admit that the bass caught in Napan in the Spring have not previously been caught by the fishermen of the Main River and

Northwest in the winter. Reply to "third fact" :- If the fish taken in Napan in May were "mature fish" as mentioned by the Inspector under head of "first fact," they would be very poor food fish, and their capture and destruction would be as "terrible" as that which the Inspector says is carried on the Northwest and Main River, but from our reply to "first fact" the Inspector ought to be convinced that his premises are not entirely correct.

Reply to "fourth fact":- The size of the mesh of seines being entirely within the power of the Department to regulate, the "very large quantities of young bass too small for the market " ought to sengers were badly hurt. escape through them.

As we have given sufficient reasons for our belief that the Inspector's four facts are not entirely "most true and und sputable" we appeal to his common sense and experience whether he should not make further enquiries before acting upon what may be erroneous impressions. We do not mean to say that no spawning fish are taken in Napan River in the month of May, for we know the contrary to be the case, but we be-

When a fishery officer in Mr. Venning's high position will publicly make state ments so much at variance with facts as they are known by hundreds of persons best acquainted with them to be, he does much to lessen respect, not only for his own authority and efforts but for those of officers under him. The Inspector should therefore not jump at assertions so recklessly. Does he not know that the returns in his own(or the Department's) possession show that not quite 61 tons of bass were taken in Napan last winter? The Inspector ought to know that the proportion of breeding fish would not be more than one in every tex, as such fish run. But the Inspector goes on to say that most of those nine tons of breedknown here, will only be looked upon as fiction. While it is true that a portion of the bass caught in Napan were brought to the towns for sale, it is also well known that most of them were con veved to Burnt Church and frozen by Anderson's or Morrison's establishments there. Those gentlemen would, probably, be the best judges as to whether nine tons of ill-conditioned breed-

the Inspector is not happy in his judgment of what he so positively puts down advance our fishery interests. but his modes are faulty and his temperment an unfortunate one for a man in his impor-Those who think that the Advance panders to the local jealousies of the County, instead of using its influence to allay and harmonise them, as the Inspector intimates in closing his we assure our readers that with the In-

spector, with his ultra views and dogmatic "facts" on the one hand and the fishermen, with their "rights and privileges,"on the other, we see nothing to be gained by anything short of plain statements of facts and the administration of propositions in place of marring a letter | such advice to both as we may be able which contains some excellent points by to give, with a view of securing "the highly-colored pictures of consequences greatest good to the greatest possible

MONTREAL, Jan. 11 .- The annual meeting of the Montreal Telegraph Co., was held to-day. The President read the annual report which showed that during last year the company had realized a profit of \$141.563, out of which dividends amounting 71 per cent. had been paid, besides a Reply to "first fact" :- On the 24th large sum at the credit of the contingent account, and the statement of the assets and liabilities shows the company to be in a favorable position. The directors elected for the ensuing year are Sir Hugh Allan, Dr. G. W. Campbell, Andrew Allan, Peter Redpath, Hon. E. G. Penny. The assets as valued show a large increase on the offices during last year was eighty-one.

capital of the company. The increase of NEW YORK, Jan. 11.-Dr. Charles Phelps, has been committed to jail for thirty days for retusing to testify before the grand jury in relation to the late duel. In obedience to the request of General Auger, commanding the Federal forces in New Orleans, the armed bands parading streets of the city have dispersed. The political situation is without change. LONDON, Jan. 11.-Reports from the East indicate that to-day's Conference will

The Post makes the following announcement very prominently :- "We have reason to believe there is still some ground for not despairing of a pacific issue. Within the last few days urgent representations have been telegraphed to the Porte, which have at least secured attention." OTTAWA, Jan. 12.-Mr. Barber, the

Montreal Bank embezzler, pleaded guilty yesterday, at Toronto, and was sentenced to five years penitentiary. It is rumored that parties implicated with him gave \$100,000 to induce him to plead guilty. MONTREAL, Jan. 12. - About fifteen French immigrants, who claim to have

been brought out by false pretences leave to-night for France, aided by the Government and the French societies here. More will leave next week. NEW YORK, Jan. 12.-Near Alexandria, Va., two sleeping cars on a passenger train were thrown down an embankment by a

broken rail. Fifteen passengers were in-

Another accident occurred in West Vir ginia, by a passenger train jumping down an embankment of 45 feet. Several pas-BELGRADE, Jan. 12 .- The Turks attack-

ed Raiatz on Tuesday, and 210 men were killed and wounded. They attacked Negotin, but were repulsed. The Turks also have burned two villages in the Narva

PARIS, Jan. 12.-In the beginning of the week Prince Bismarck sent Baron Von Werther a curt despatch, criticising the extreme slowness of the Conference declaring the plenipotentiaries had gone too such concessions and modifications in the pared the force of its collective action.

Correspondence.

nd will be glad to publish anything that will adnce the interests of our readers, individually. the communities in which they live Loca News Items, Notices of Improvements-either moral or physical-Reports of Meetings, Agricultu al, Lumbering, Fishing, Mechanical and other Inistrial notes are especially welcome We do not xpect that all who desire to assist us in the above ray are good writers, but that should not deter hem from sending along their favors. We want he news and will see that it goes into the paper in

Letter from the Inspector of Fisheries.

To the Editor of the Miramichi Advance. SIR. -In your issue of the 4th inst. editorial articles on the "Protection of the Smelt Fishery,"and on the "Bass Fishery,"contain some errors, which, with your permission, I would like to correct, and I will feel obliged if you will give the following remarks a place in your next issue. Your informant was in error in stating that I had "decided not to allow fishing for smelts in Bathurst harbor with bag nets similar to those in use in the vicinity of the Miramichi." In Bathurst I did precisely as in Napan. I informed all persons Napan last winter" is an exaggeration fishing with bagnets, or interested in their which we cannot too strongly condemn. use, that they were illegal, except under License, but that, under the circumstances of the sudden growth of this fishery, and in the absence of any specific regulations bearing upon it. I would not enforce the law until I had reported all the facts to the Minister and received instructions from head quarters; and I advised them to apply at once for Licenses. In doing this I do better of me," as you say.

not see in what way "my zeal got the You state that the labor and exposure of fishing with hook and line is out of reasonable proportion to the results obtainable. Had you been on the ice in Bathurst harbor any day during the past month, and seen the poorest class of people, who are totally unable to procure not only so expensive an implement as a Bag net, but even the common necessaries of life, (now that winter has cut off their usual sources of employment in milling and agricultural operations,) earning from \$1 to \$3 per day, cash in hand, you would probably think it not bad remuneration for the work of that class of people. Seeing this, and seeing also the great destruction by bag nets of small and unmarketable fish. both might possibly lead to the reflection that "the greatest good to the greatest possible number" of those who needed it most, would point to the propriety of protecting this new source of employment, and of keeping it in the hands of those to whom it is a god-send. Your personal observations, and the evidence of those who have given the subject their attention, are very much at fault in supposing that the Smelts now being caught at Bathurst are of the same | ful work. variety as those that ascend your rivers in May and June to spawn, and on this error your whole argument is based. They are a distinct variety from these, differing greatly in appearance and having very different habits. They are now either as a very cursory examination of them will prove. They do not swarm in our rivers for six months of the year, as you say, but will return to sea soon after depositing their spawn and milt, and long before the smaller variety, known as "black-backs," make their appearance. This being the case, you will readily pre- last Spring, and a few stake nets. These ceive how great a drain the destructive bag net must make on the breeding fish as well as on the young ones that are now uselessly exterminated. I have very grave fears indeed that this variety of the Smelt, prolific as it is, will, in a very few years, be quite exhausted, if the present wasteful mode of fishing is permitted to continue. Not only are the full grown parent fish destroyed, at the very time when they should be protected, -during their spawnng season-but the half grown ones are killed by wholesale. This burning of the

valuable addition to our exports, and

candle at both ends must soon consume it. As this fishery promises to be a very great boon to the poor, it becomes a question of the greatest importance how best Bass were taken there at night, carried across to protect and foster it. I suppose you are well aware that if left to the tender mercies of the fishermen themselves, its fate is not a doubtful one.

All your reasoning on the great fecundity of the smelt, the immensity of the supply, and the impossibility of exhausting it, being based on the false premises I have above pointed out, the conclusion you have arrived at is fallacious. The destruction of the smaller variety of smelt that comes into your rivers to spawn in the months of May and June, is most foolish and reprehensible, and if your people had a proper idea of the value of their fisheries, they would perceive that the vast quantities of spawning smelts desland, is depriving the deep sea fishes, such as the Cod, Mackerel, Bass, Haddock, Pollock, Herring and others, of the food that brings them to the coasts. As food producers for these fish, the smelts are of far more value than as a fertilizer, and their wholesale destruction will most asoutside fisheries. If your people were alive to their own interests they would not permit this stupid waste of the most attractive bait that your River produces, but would protect and foster it with jealous care, knowing that when smelts are abundant on the coasts and in the Bays, the deep sea fishing is always good, and bad. The mass of the people are not aware, or are forgetful of these facts, and I consider it one of the duties of an intelligent Editor to educate them up to more enlightened views. Until a more healthy state of public opinion and feeling is brought about by an enlightened press, I almost despair of seeing our fisheries as produc- nor lead him to champion either section at tive and profitable as they might become. On the subject of your other editorial article, viz: the Bass Fishery, I beg leave

the questions, whether Bass ought to be that the main river and North West people taken in Napan and Black Rivers, up to the 25th May, and whether seining for Bass in those rivers ought to be allowed, are being agitated, growing out of a Petition against both these practices,-and you add that if such a Petition is being circulated, it will turn out to be from the people of the North West and South West to prevent Bass from going into the market at a time when they cannot be sent from those branches. I am very glad, indeed, to learn that at length a portion, at least, of your people are opening their eyes to the fact that this fishery, in common with all others in your river, is being pursued with a most reckless disregard of its future, and that they see the necessity of some effective steps being taken to prevent its speedy destruction. You say that if you were convinced the breeding fish were taken by seines in the lower waters to any damaging extent, you would heartily join in any reasonable effort to secure their protection. far in concessions to the Porte, and that statement, I will now mention a few de- volver at a man named Johnston, who little trouble.

> in Napan and Black Rivers from the open- of the shots took effect. Baker was ing of navigation to the 25th of May are promptly arrested.

breeding fish-some of them having deposited their spawn and milt, and consequently then in very poor condition, and all the rest being on the very point of doing so. There can be no particle of doubt of this fact -- it is easily verified -- there is no mystery about it. All that is necessary to be done is simply to examine a bass taken in the month of May, and the whole question is settled. As you cannot now get a May Bass, it is only necessary for you to examine the ovaries of the large female Bass now being taken in great numbers on the North West, and judge, from their present state of developement, what will be their condition four

Second fact. - The Bass caught in Napan in the Spring are those that have escaped the terrible overfishing pursued in the North West and main river during the previous winter. These fish go there to feed on the first run of "black-back" smelts that enter Napan and Black Rivers on the breaking up of the ice. All the Napan people know this, and the fact is mentioned in all their petitions on the subject. The fish do not winter there, do not spawn there, and are seldom in the river except at the time the spring smelts come. All this is so easily proved that I think it unness to dwell further upon it.

Third fact. - The taking of this fish in any wavat that time and in their condition, is not only destroying a very poor food fish, but all its progeny, upon which depends the very existence of the species in the river.

This, I think, needs no further proof. Fourth fact. - In addition to the mature parent fish and all their progeny thus destroved while in the very act of procreation, the seines then used destroy very large quantities of young Bass, too small for market, and wholly valueless as a commercial fish. This, no Napan man can honestly denv.

Now, in view of these four most true and indisputable facts, I appeal to your common sense whether these fish ought to be taken at all during their spawning time, and whether seines should be allowed at any time

But, Sir, this wholesale destruction of breeding fish at Napan is not the only evil to which this valuable fishery is exposed. The practice of seining for Gaspereau in the Spring kills large numbers of spawning bass, and still larger numbers of small bass, unfit for market. With such stupid destruction as this, pursued year after year, is it to be wondered at that this fishery is showing unmistakable signs of decay? Is it not rather wonderful that it has lasted so long? But how much longer can it reasonably be expected to continue if these evils are allowed to go on in a yearly increasing ratio? Not a moment too soon has an effort been made to stay this waste-

You think it is hardly fair to deprive the lower parts of the County of "privileges." But is it fair that those "privileges" should be enjoyed by a comparatively few Napan people at the expense of one of the most valuable resources of the spawning or on the very point of doing so, | County? There are now over 360 Bass nets registered on the main River and North West, nearly 50% more than there were last winter. The fish taken are now in prime condition as food, and are bringing good and profitable prices to both fishermen and dealers. There were, I believe, four seines used in Napan and Black River four seines were worked in company by a few joint owners. They took the bulk of all the Bass that were taken; the set nets getting but very few, because the seines monopolized them. Last winter over nine tons of spawning Bass were taken in Napan. -the great bulk of this large quantity by the seines. They were very poorfood, could not then be sent to the U. S. markets fresh, because the weather was too warm to keep them frozen, and they were put on the home markets of Chatham, Douglastown, Newcastle, Nelson, Bathurst and other places, and under cover of this con cession to the Napan people, I have only too much reason to believe that the close time was evaded in the North West, that the river and sold in Nelson, Donglastown and Chatham as Napan fish. Of course the officers could not detect the wrong doers, and could not distinguish which fish

were caught in Napan. Now, Mr. Elitor, these are truths ; I leave you to draw your own conclusions from them, and I earnestly hope these conclusions will lead you to give your aid and assistance in abating the serious evils I have pointed out and in protecting the stupid greed and short sighted ignorance.

I was brought up in Miramichi till my seventeenth year; I am very familiar with the whole river and all its fisheries: I am one of the oldest anglers on the South troyed for the purpose of impoverishing the West Branch, and know intimately what the state of the river and its fisheries has been for the last 35 years. I assisted to draft the Provincial Law of 1863 in the time of Governor Gordon, and I watched its working and its defects until it was re placed by our present Fisheries Act. I can have no personal interest in the matter of suredly be followed by the failure of the the fisheries of the Province, except to do the duties of my office, which is a most onerous and thankless one, in a manner creditable to myself and beneficial to them. My sole ambition is to enable our fishermen generally, and particularly those of my native County, to eatch more fish than they now do, and to leave the fisheries, greatly improved, as a rich heritage to that when they are scarce, it is always their children. This result is possible, but not under the present wasteful and sinful mode of conducting them.

The local jealousies that prevail in your county are much to be deplored, since they lead to efforts of one section to get an advantage over another, but they should not influence an intelligent journalist, the expense of the resources of the whole county. While it is true that the Napan people cannot, from natural causes, share in to make the following remarks. You say, the benefits of the bass fishing, it is also true cannot participate in those of the smelt fishery, and the latter, under judicious regulations, will soon exceed the former in value. so that, in this case, the gifts of a beneficient Providence are fairly distributed. and each section should, without jealousy or strife, join the other in fostering and protecting the blessings they severally enjoy; each should aid the other in conserving and perpetuating for their children the sources of wealth in which they them selves are now participating, and the press of the County, instead of pandering to these local jealousies, should use its in fluence to allay and harmonize them.

I am, sir, your obedient servant. W. H. VENNING. Inspector of Fisheries St. John, Jan. 9th, 1877.

At Guelph, Ont., on Wednesday evening of last week a colored man named Believing you to be sincere in making this Baker discharged two chambers of a remonstrable facts, of the truth of which you was on the street with Baker's wife .the revolver three times at the woman. First Fact. - All the mature bass taken | Jealousy was the cause of the act. None