



HARNESS.

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. Inspection Invited.

T. FINLAY, (Successor to R. & T. Finlay,) CHARLOTTE STREET, SAINT JOHN.

General Business.

HARD TO FIND!

AS GOOD A STOCK OF STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS.

LADIES', MISSES' & GENTS' FUR SETS, MUFFS, CAPS, GLOVES, &c.

Boots, Felt and Arctic Overs, Rubbers. The largest and cheapest Stock in NEWCASTLE.

PEOPLE'S HOUSE, JAMES BROWN, November 2nd, 1876.

Glaspow 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 STOCK—A Large Stock of English TEAS, (different grades).

TOBACCO, (different brands).

FLOUR, FISH, MOLASSES, LARD, &c. &c.

All of which are offered at low rates. WILLIAM MURRAY, Chatham, Nov. 15th, 1876.

1, 1 1/2 and 2 Inch Seasoned Pine Lumber, FOR SALE, WM. MURRAY.

WANTED. Oats, Honespun, Country Shoes and Mitts. WM. MURRAY.

MANCHESTER HOUSE.

JUST OPENED: Mattalase Mantle Cloth; Dark Brown Beaver; Black French Merino; Black Herring; Black Merino Angora; Navy Blue French Merino @ 66c per yd.; Maroon French Merino.

PERSIAN CARDS, (VERY CHOICE). In Navy and Seal Brown. Ladies' Silk Straw Bonnets; Ladies' Silk Dress Caps; Green and Gold Curtain Ropes, @ 81; Curtain Lace to order.

W. S. LOGGIE, \$2500 A YEAR. AGENTS WANTED on our Grand Combination Properties, representing 50 DISTINCT BOOKS.

50 DISTINCT BOOKS. The biggest thing ever tried. Sold from this when all single books fail. Also, Agents wanted on our MAGNIFICENT FAMILY BIBLES.

A FAVORITE WINTER RESORT, JAMAICA. Six to seven days voyage from New York by the Atlas Company's steamer, the Elvina, which is the finest climate in the world, where there is a choice of temperature and the most beautiful scenery.

FARE (Saloon), \$50 AM. GOLD. APPLY TO D. BATTERAY, Agent, 125 St. James St., Montreal.

P. M. FORWOOD & Co., General Agents, 50 Wall Street, New York.

\$55 to \$77 a Week to Agents. Samples sent free. Terms free. TRIP to VIKING, August, Maine.

STAMMERING cured by Bates' Appliances. For description, see address SIMPSON & Co., 105 Broadway, New York.

30 FANCY CARDS, 15 styles, with name, 10c. Postpaid. C. Walker, Chatham Village, N. Y.

\$1175 PROFITS from \$10625 in one contract in 20 days. The judicious management of STOCK CONTRACTS.

25 EXTRA FINE MIXED CARDS, with name, 10c. 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 Letter for Copying Book. No press or water stamp. Sample copy sent for 25c. Sample stamp for circular. Exclusive Manufacturer, 92 Madison and 122 Beethoven Street, Chicago, Ill.

\$5 to \$20 per day at home. Samples, 10c. Postpaid. W. H. STINSON & Co., Portland, Maine.

\$25 a day commission, or \$50 per week salary and expenses. We offer it and will pay it. Apply now. BUREAU MFG CO., Hartford, Conn.

50 WHITE BRISTOL VISITING CARDS, with your name finely printed, for 25c. Samples sent on request. No postage, 100 AGENTS WANTED. Address A. W. WINNEY, Ferrisburgh, N. S.

South West Boom Company.

The Annual Meeting of the above company will be held on the Thursday after the Second Tuesday in January next, being the Eleventh day of that month, at Three o'clock in the afternoon, at Mr. Withersall's, in Newcastle, for the purpose of choosing Directors for the ensuing year, and transacting other business as they may deem necessary under the Act of Incorporation.

The present Directors will meet at the same place, on the same day, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon, to close up the business of the present year. ALEXANDER MORRISON, President. Newcastle, 27th December, 1876. Jan 11

Fall Produce, &c.

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

Flour, Fresh Pork, Lard, Butter, Potatoes, Salt Pork.

Oysters, Wholesale Warehouse, KING STREET, ST. JOHN.

EVERITT & BUTLER, Hair Pins and Combs.

250 POUNDS FRESH BUTTER, FOR SALE LOW BY ROBERTSON & McANDREWS, CHATHAM.

Just Received: 50 POUNDS FRESH BUTTER.

EX "IBERIAN," VIA BOSTON.

BUSINESS NOTICE.

The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" is published at Chatham, Miramichi, N. B. every Thursday morning in time for despatch by the earliest mails of the day.

It is sent by air to New York, Canada, the United States and Great Britain (Postage paid by the publisher) for \$1.50 a year, in advance. For 6 mos. \$1.00. In all cases, to accompany the order for the paper.

Advertisements in this paper are placed under classified headings. TRANSIENT RATES. \$1 per square, or inch, for 1st insertion.

LOCAL, COMMERCIAL AND YEARLY RATES. In order to secure the advertising patronage of business men and others on the North Shore, and to give them the benefit of a large circulation in the Counties of Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester and Westmorland, Kent, Gloucester and Westmorland, the following rates are offered, which are as low as those of other weekly papers in the Province.

The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" having its large circulation distributed among communities on the North Shore, and in the Counties of Kent, Gloucester and Westmorland, offers very superior inducements to advertisers. Address Editor "Miramichi Advance," Chatham, N. B.

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 1877. 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 hook and line fishing allowed throughout winter season."

We observe that the News characterizes the above despatch as ambiguous, professing that it cannot understand it and stating that Inspector Venning, to whom it applied for an interpretation, was equally incapable of construing it. We presume the News failed to put its 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 some party being asleep at head quarters are entirely uncalculated 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.

SHIPPER MAIL MATTER will have attention next week. CHATHAM'S SHIPPING LIST, in full, will be found on our first page.

NEW FISHERY OFFICER.—Finlay McDAIRNID, Esq., of Napan, has been appointed Fishery Warden for Napan and Black River.

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

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.

The Fishery Inspector's Letter. A letter from W. H. Venning, Esq., Dominion Inspector of Fisheries for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, appears in this issue of the ADVANCE and as it is intended to show that our editorial articles of 4th inst. on "Protection of the Smelt Fishery" and "Bass fishery" were the offspring of misconceptions of facts and the results of incorrect and interested views, we shall take the liberty of dealing with some of its points.

For more than two years we have found it necessary, in the discharge of our duty, to oppose views entertained or acted upon 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 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 standpoint, 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 before 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 a sign that neither is right, we should take no further active interest in the matter. Believing, however, that under the circumstances, it is our duty to follow this matter up, we shall not be deterred from an attempt to hold our own ground, regretting, at the same time, that we have to differ from the

upper Miramichi waters and observe the fish as they are taken from the rivers he will see that they are "black backs," but Jack Frost seizes them almost as soon as they are on the ice and converts them into "greenbacks," and very pale ones at that. The "silver backed" smelt is also visiting us, but it frequents the rivers which empty themselves near the pure salt water, which accounts for that variety being found at Bathurst. The Inspector misinterprets us when he makes us appear as asserting that the same smelts now in our rivers continue in them all winter. We intimated the spawning season was from January to June. The fish which spawn in January return to sea to feed codfish, haddock etc. (not herring or mackerel, however, as those fish do not eat smelts) and, with the next full tide come another run which spawn and go to sea again, to give place to the next run. The fishermen know that these monthly "runs" of smelts may be expected and they prepare to catch them. It is a fact generally known, also, that the fuller the tides the greater the bulk of fish in the rivers and their vicinity when the tides are not so full (for then they are more evenly distributed) but because 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 channels.

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 desire on the part of the fishermen to catch fish to an extent which endangers the existence of a particular fishery is more excusable than the adoption by an Inspector of harsh or ill-considered means to prevent it, for while fishermen, as a rule, are not qualified to "trammel up the consequences" and cannot therefore be expected to look far beyond their own immediate interests, an intelligent officer should make allowance for 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 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 intelligent officer to educate the mass of the people up to more intelligent views," we also hold that it is equally the duty of those charged with the control of class, as well as general interests to further the efforts of such officers by an equally intelligent exercise of the powers vested in them.

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 smaller fish; also that the catching of smelts for other than commercial purposes—that is, for food—be prohibited. We gave good reasons for proposing such regulations and suggested that others might be added to them. It would have been well, we think, had the Inspector given us his ideas on those propositions in place of marring a letter which contains some excellent points which are to follow a state of natural and other facts which partake a little to 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—

Reply to "first fact."—On the 24th May 1875, when the question of extending the season for bass fishing in the lower Miramichi waters was being discussed, the writer, accompanied by one of the best angling sportsmen of the Miramichi, proceeded to Napan and brought to Chatham about twenty bass out of a hundred or more which were taken in that river with a seine. The writer opened and carefully examined seven of the largest fish, and averaged five pounds weight each, and not one contained ova. Four contained milt, but it showed no sign of ripeness, being firm and comparatively small. Our enquiries among those engaged in the bass fishery in Napan, together with our own experience, therefore, led 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 caught in Napan are not more than two-thirds 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," and they were 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 escape through them.

As we have given sufficient reasons for our belief that the Inspector's four facts are not entirely "most true and indisputable" 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 believe the proportion of them taken there is not nearly so great as it is in the Northwest only a few weeks earlier in the season, and we must confess that, apart from the question of fitness

Correspondence.

[We invite correspondence on all local subjects, and will be glad to publish anything that will interest our readers, individually, or collectively, provided they live in local News Items, Notices of Improvements—either moral or physical—are especially welcome. We do not expect that all who write to the above are good writers, but that should not deter them from doing so. We want the news and will see that it goes into the paper in proper shape.]

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 fishing with bag nets, or interested in their 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 not see in what way "my zeal got the better of me," as you say.

You state that the labor and expense of fishing with hook and line is out of reasonable proportion to the results obtained. 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 unacquainted with a Bag net, but so expensive an implement as a Bag net, not only the common necessities 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 need 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 in favor of supposing that the Smelt now being caught at Bathurst are of the variety as those that ascend your rivers in May and June to spawn, and on your error your whole argument is based. There are a distinct variety from these, differing greatly in appearance and having very different habits. They 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 before the smaller variety, known as "black-backs," make their appearance.

This being the case, you will readily perceive 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 spawning season—but the half grown ones are killed by wholesale. This burning of the candle at both ends must soon consume it.

As this fishery promises to be a very valuable addition to our exports, and a great boon to the poor, it becomes a question of the greatest importance how best 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 my 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 fish 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 destroyed for the purpose of impoisoning the land, 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 assuredly be followed by the failure of the outside 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 that when they are scarce, it is always 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 fishery 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 that when they are scarce, it is always bad. 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