

of this division. His returns show almost double the yield and value of last year. This must, however, be attributed to a more accurate system of collecting information rather than to an actual increase of fish. Over \$75,000 are invested in fishing outfits in Collingwood alone. Mr. Kerr recommends, that whitefish and salmon-trout ova for hatching purposes be procured after the close season is over, thereby preventing the numerous complaints and grumbling on the part of the Meaford fishermen.

Overseer Frazer reports summer fishing as fair. Fishermen, as a rule, did not complain of any scarcity of fish, but of the tremendous gales which, during the months of October and November, caused the loss of large quantities of fish, besides, in many instances, destroying all their nets. The close seasons were generally well observed. Fish dealers are becoming alive to the importance of maintaining their business and find it in their own interest to give fish some protection during the spawning season, by refusing to purchase from poachers. The only offenders of late were a few settlers, labourers or Indians, who thus violate the law for the sake of procuring a few fish to eat. Complaints that sawdust was allowed to escape in Muskoka and Severn rivers were enquired into and found to be groundless.

Overseer Miller states that, the use of pound nets together with that of small steam tugs, affords great advantages to the fishermen, by allowing them to prosecute their calling with better chances of success. For some unexplained reason whitefish, which were so plentiful near Meaford, almost entirely failed this year. Although trout was late in coming to the spawning grounds, the catch was fair, considering the rough weather experienced during the fall months.

LAKE HURON DIVISION.

JAMES MUIR,	<i>Overseer,</i>	Cape Hurd to Point Clark.
HUGH MCFAYDEN	do	Saugeen River.
A. C. MCKINNON	do	Point Clark to Kettle Point.
DAVID McMASTER	do	Kettle Point to Baby's Point.

COMPARATIVE Statement of the yield and value of the Fisheries of this Division.

Kinds of Fish.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
			Lbs.	Lbs.
Whitefish	Lbs. 762,800	907,000	836,500	620,000
Trout	Erls. 2,345	2,154	705,200	543,000
Herring	" 916	5,999	brls. 4,395	brls. 4,222
Bass	" 38	49	14,000	13,800
Pike	"	1	200	400
Pickrel	" 113	698	285,050	288,200
Sturgeon	" 25	688	64,700	59,200
Fish used for local consumption	" 3,134	350
Totals in barrels or lbs.	10,385	14,474	lbs. 2,784,650	lbs. 2,369,000
Value	\$ 78,670	81,075	166,499	135,250

Overseer Muir returns about the same number of men and boats engaged fishing as in 1882. At Southampton, a very important fishing station, gill nets met with very indifferent success. At Kincardine, the catch of whitefish and trout was slightly below that of the previous year. Herring were abundant for a short time at Sauble Beach; this, however, lasted only during their passage up to the spawning beds. Most of the mills in this Overseer's division are said to be provided with furnaces to burn the sawdust, so that there are no more complaints heard under that head.