



Our Great Lake Fisheries A Vanishing Heritage



I.

INTRODUCTION

The late Government left the fisheries in a condition of depletion and confusion which will test the capacity of its successors in office to the utmost to rectify.

The province secured possession of the Great Lake fisheries in 1898.

The first report, issued in 1899, says: "The fisheries as a national possession are inestimable. As a field for industry and enterprise they are inexhaustible. They are perhaps unsurpassed in any country on the globe, not only in extent, but for their great economic value. The fisheries are destined in the near future to afford a livelihood for thousands of our population and become an important and continuous source of food supply and revenue. There may soon be a large increase in the supply of fish and a perceptible improvement in the fishing industry, a matter which concerns not the present generation only, but which is of vital importance to succeeding generations also."

At the date the above was given to the public, six years ago, the catch of fish was 31,488,479 pounds, valued at \$1,333,293.