

Ontario Fishery Commission.

(C.)

A. C. Brown, fisherman, Port Stanley, page 21 :—Catch of blue pickerel large, but not so large as at Port Burwell; occasionally catches immature fish, from 100 to 500 pounds; mostly sold for home consumption; bury perhaps half a ton in a season.

Capt. John Ellison, fisherman, Port Stanley, page 29 :—Two-inch extension catches $\frac{1}{4}$ -pound fish; four years ago we caught a number of small fish, few since; those small fish ran $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound; threw them back; small fish in a net are a nuisance; of late years in Lake Erie the fishing business has been assuming a more business-like aspect.

Daniel Lang, fisherman, Aldborough, page 25 :—Caught plenty of immature fish, principally herrings, and about four years ago great numbers of young whitefish; never buried any.

W. H. Black, Kingsville, fisherman, page 32 :—Catches a salmon-trout once in a while.

W. D. Bates, fisherman, Rondeau, page 34 :—Eleven salmon-trout caught in this fishery.

William Grubb, light-house keeper, Point Pelée, page 40 :—A great many more blue pickerel caught here than whitefish.

(D.)

Gilbert de Laurier, fisherman and fish-dealer, Leamington, page 38 :—Sturgeon under 3 feet 6 inches should be returned to the water; has heard it repeated that great quantities of small fish are wasted.

(E.)

At the International Fisheries Conference held at Detroit, 20th and 21st December, 1893.

Mr. C. M. Keys, of Sandusky, Ohio, specially invited to attend the conference to represent the fish dealing interests of Sandusky, said :—The head or west end of Lake Erie is the natural spawning ground for the whitefish. From Pelee Island and the Dummy Light to Vermillion is one continual spawning ground. The only whitefish taken to speak of are those taken on these spawning grounds. The bulk of the whitefish are caught with gill-nets, set upon what is called the "reef." The whitefish are not only caught, but are turned back and prevented from reaching their spawning grounds above. Nature directs them to a certain place, and this they cannot reach. The fish which escape the nets thus fail to reproduce. There is a wall of nets stretching across Lake Erie. This fishing is carried on in November while the fish are ripe for spawning. The heaviest herring fishing is carried on at the same time. The whitefish and herring spawn at the same time.

Mr. A. G. McDonald, Detroit, manager of the Buffalo Fish Company, said :—I think the whitefish are all out of Lake Erie, and it is the herrings we are after now. Every net of every description should be out of Lake Erie by the 15th November. I am in favour of a close season. The Canadian close season begins first November.

Mr. Herschel Whittaker, of Detroit, Michigan, Fish Commissioner and chairman of the International Conference, said :—Twenty years ago I lived in the State of New York, and whitefish, trout and ciscoes were in plenty. Five or ten years afterwards the commercial fishing of Lake Ontario became extinct practically. It was not pursued for profit any longer by fishermen. This illustrates what fishing without restraint will do. The same thing is occurring in Lake Erie to-day, and